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Near East & South Asia

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G-15 Summit Closing Sessions Held in New Delhi

Leaders Urge Restructuring of UN

AB3003181894 Lagos Voice of Nigeria in English 1030 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Leaders of the G-15 developing nations meeting in the Indian capital, New Delhi, have called for a restructuring of the United Nations in a way that it will take account of significant changes that have taken place since 1945. In a draft joint communique, which is to be approved by the summit today, the leaders are also suggesting that the restructuring should rest on the principle of democratization and transparency in decision-making at the UN and all its agencies. The General Assembly, according to the communique, should be revitalized, a suitable formula that would ensure appropriate interaction between the Security Council and the General Assembly designed.

The G-15 leaders are also calling for an expansion of its membership. According to a Voice of Nigeria correspondent in New Delhi, the draft communique is taking note of the current world trade agreement and is expressing the hope that liberalization, increased market access and expansion of world trade would materialize. The draft communique is further calling for a monitoring mechanism to ensure that during the implementation of the GATT agreement the interest of developing countries is adequately protected.

GATT Meeting, Wage Issue Reviewed

BK3003140794 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1300 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] The Group of 15 developing countries, or G-15, will take a common position to ensure that interests of South countries are protected and informed at the GATT ministerial meeting in Marrakesh, Morocco next month. This is agreed upon by leaders attending the fourth G-15 summit in New Delhi, India. Briefing Malaysian journalists, Foreign Affairs Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the leaders agreed that ministers representing the group at Marrakesh should meet before the meeting to coordinate their positions.

He said the subject on the need to impose a global minimum wage raised by Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir will be viewed with concern. Efforts should be made to ensure such a move is not approved or endorsed. If a global minimum wage is imposed, it will have serious negative consequences in the industries and economies of the South countries.

Mahathir on Marrakesh Declaration

BK3103092694 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed says countries of the South can meet the challenge of the so-called social clause to be included in the Marrakesh Declaration if they stand together.

The United States proposes to include Marrakesh Ministerial Declaration, the clause of seeking a committment to address the link between social and labor standards towards international trade in the world trade organization.

The prime minister said this when replying to a question posed to him at the news conference at the end of the fourth G-15 summit in New Delhi. He said if the U.S. and other developed nations insist on imposing a global minimum wage, it will not be advantageous to the South nations. He pointed out that cheap labor is the only comparative advantage the developing world has against the developed nations. The developed countries on the other hand, have full advantages, namely, capital, technological knowhow, management and marketing knowhow, and huge domestic markets.

Rao Speaks at Closing Session

BK3003140994 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1103 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Address by Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao at the concluding session of the G-15 Summit at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi—live]

[Text] Excellencies, heads of state, heads of government, special envoys, ladies and gentlemen: We meet now in the concluding session of the fourth summit of the G-15 in New Delhi. We have had fruitful discussions on matters relating to the future organization of the work and activities of the group as well as on further evolving its perspectives on global issues of common concern. When we began the summit, we were set to impart a new dynamism to this group and enable it to more meaningfully serve the interests of its constituents. We sought to clearly establish a direct correlation between our interests in the group and the benefits that we can derive from it. We believe that we have been able to provide the wherewithal and direction to the group in terms of institutional framework and agenda that, given rigorous monitoring and follow up, could achieve this objective.

We have decided to broaden the scope of intra-G-15 economic cooperation through the establishment of a Committee on Trade, Investment, and Technology, which will work toward evolution of transregional arrangements. Key elements of these arrangements would be liberalization, facilitation, promotion of trade to demonstrably increase economic interaction within the group. The success of our efforts would, in turn, simulate such exchanges in the vital areas of trade, investment, and transfer of technology with and among other developing countries. The private sector will have a crucial role to play and will therefore be closely associated with this venture. This committee will also establish interactive links with related projects such as the South Investment, Trade, and Technology Data Exchange Center—SITTDEC—payments, arrangements, infrastructure, sectoral, and techno-economic projects such as solar energy and gene banks. This approach will not only bring our complementarities to the fore, but will fully utilize them to enlarge markets and accelerate growth and development in our countries. Above all, this approach provides an altogether new dimension to our firm commitment to further implement our cooperative projects and establish more vigorous linkages between them and our national institutions and policies. This would then make South-South cooperation a truly vibrant component of G-15.

The business forum which has been held in tandem with the summit has provided new insights to expanding trade, investments through joint ventures, technological exchanges, and tourism. It drew up time-bound action plans for strengthening transport, financial, and information infrastructure for intra G-15 trade. The trade committee would help achieve these objectives through its own work program. We recognize that the availability of objective, balanced, extensive, and timely information about political, cultural, economic, and social developments in G-15 countries is an essential prerequisite of effective cooperation. We, therefore, agreed that G-15 should harness the information and communication revolution to promote better understanding and knowledge about the problems and experiences, capabilities, and potential of our countries. This could best be achieved by establishing telecommunications and media link-ups and coordination of efforts in these areas. A group to evolve appropriate strategies in this regard, including recommendations on information infrastructure and communication systems—existing and new—that may need to be established will be set up. We are asking the troika foreign ministers to facilitate the setting up of such a group and develop its terms of reference.

The summit reaffirmed support for the continuing operation of SITTDEC and agreed that member countries should meet their financial obligations. To ensure viability, the summit recommended that SITTDEC should be commercially oriented and accept subscribers directly from all developing countries. In this regard, it was felt that a board meeting should be convened at the earliest. Our group has considerable technological resources and expertise, which we are keen to put to the service of industrialization, rural development, employment generation, and building of social infrastructure in developing countries. Cooperation in the setting up of small scale industries, especially in Africa is of particular relevance and we agreed to extend full support through appropriate projects.

We welcomed the offer by the government of Senegal to coordinate a project on the transfer of technology and development with a focus on food production, energy, and health. We welcomed the proposal by the government of Egypt on establishment of South-South Renewable Energy Promotion Center, which is geared to exchange of information and the use of existing capabilities in member countries in this field. We also welcomed the proposal of the government of Egypt for cooperation in the design, execution, and management of petroleum, gas and petrochemical projects. We agreed to hone our consultative mechanisms by providing for meetings of our ministers of foreign affairs, economy, trade, agriculture, environment, and science and technology on a regular basis in the intersummit period. This would not only deepen our understanding on these policy areas, but also lay the practical foundation for cooperation among our countries. We are aware that our decisions will have to be continuously followed up and translated into action on the ground. We expect that the summit's declared commitment will ensure that our national administrations with the active support of our industry and business would involve themselves in this task and produce results. We would use ministerial and other consultative mechanisms to coordinate our approaches on specific global issues of common concern. The group's mandate of engaging in a substantive dialogue on such issues with our partners in the north will be actively pursued through interactions at multilateral fora. The G-15 initiative on a constructive and focussed dialogue with the G-7 will be carried forward.

The summit provided us an opportunity to evaluate the international situation and exchange perceptions on issues of critical importance to peace and development in our times. We undertook a [words indistinct] of the economic, political, environmental, and social changes that we, the developing countries face in common and shared our experiences in meeting these challenges. We affirmed the equal importance of attention to peace and development in a restructured and democratized UN, if we are to realize more equitable, prosperous, and secure world order.

The world trading order that is emerging after seven long years of negotiations in the Uruguay Round engaged our attention. We expect that the round will fulfill its promise of propelling our growth through new and expanded market access areas of current and potential interest to us. Further, we look to the WTO [World Trade Organization] as a guarantor of the rights of the weaker trading partners and as a safety net against arbitrary, unilateral, and discriminatory protectionist action. In the coming months and years, we would have to work together for this. At the same time, while we are fully conscious of genuine social and environmental requirements and the need to fulfill them in our specific context, we will have to guard against new trade restricting tendencies in the developed countries using the pretext of social and environmental concerns with the real aim of nullifying the comparative advantage of the economies of the south such as raw materials, simple life styles, climate, wage structure, et cetera. Keeping these factors in mind, it was agreed that our ministers could meet at Marrakech on the occasion of the concluding conference on the Uruguay Round with a view to ensuring coordination amongst us.

Our discussions on the substantive and organizational aspects of the group have yielded positive results and it is my hope that the group will influence policies, decisions, and events that directly impinge on our individual and collective well-being. We welcomed the offer made by the president of Argentina to host our fifth summit meeting and look forward to meeting in Buenos Aires in 1995. We also welcomed and accepted the offer made by the president of Zimbabwe to host our sixth summit in 1996. As this summit draws to a close, we look forward to the future. We are confident that under the wise and able stewardship of President Menem, the G-15 will prosper and advance toward the realization of its potential. I would like to assure him of our fullest cooperation in this noble endeavor, which is the cherished goal of all our countries and peoples. I now invite His Excellency Mr. Carlos Menem to make his acceptance statement as the host of the fifth summit of G-15. Thank you.

Menem Addresses Summit Closing

BK3003150094 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1115 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Speech by Argentine President Carlos Menem at the Closing Ceremony of the G-15 Summit in New Delhi—live, in Spanish with simultaneous translation into English]

[Text] Mr. Prime Minister of India, Mr. Prime Minister of Malaysia, Mr. President of Nigeria, delegates of the Group of 15, ladies, gentlemen: I would like to use this opportunity to confirm our commitments to the targets and principles of the group, which, according to our conviction, has been strengthened and matured in the course of the years, and also to repeat the willingness of our country to host in 1995 this summit meeting. Furthermore, on behalf of my people and the government, I would like to thank very sincerely for the cordial welcome, the affection, the kindness that has been shown to us in these few hours of our presence in this beautiful country and congratulate you for the organization of this meeting. We are convinced of the importance of the cooperation among our countries as a fundamental instrument in our struggle for development and welfare of our people.

Success that we noted in the processes of reform in the past years in many countries that form part of this forum shows clearly which benefits countries can expect that are ready to undergo processes of liberalization and the economic opening. I believe that the traumatic experiences shared by the countries present here are some of the most valuable ones offered by the contemporary world. Sharing this experience among us will help us to face future challenges and strengthen the achievements already attained. In this respect, I would like to express my great personal satisfaction over the results obtained in many of the cooperation projects the group has already implemented. In particular, I would like to underline the success of the meeting on exchange of information on national economic policies, which focus on the issue of privatization. It is an example of the activities aimed at strengthening and consolidating the work and functioning of this group. At the same time, it is a clear example of the constructive form of a high-technical component in which the South-South cooperation can be made increasingly effective. I am convinced that the strengthening of our group through a program of technical cooperation cleared of ideological contents, which are survivors from, or vestiges from, passages already overcome, and a solid scientific support constitute the best possible way to sensitize the most developed countries regarding the needs of a free international trade. The different sectors of our countries, without prejudice, will help us to create a favorable international environment, in which the benefit of free trade will be distributed in a just manner among all of the nations of the world.

Luckily, the days are already gone by when the probable, alleged culprits of all our problems were sought in the developed world. Today, we know that the main responsibility of our countries is to achieve the necessary structural transformation to maintain the course of full economic and social development. The genuine economic development, stemming from this process of sincerity, will constitute the best basis for the universal consolidation of fully democratic regime founded on the sovereignty of the people whose authorities act in strict conformity with the laws sanctioned by the representatives of the people without discriminations and with full respect for the human rights. In other times, these subjects were considered to be the exclusive domain of each state outside of the interference of other members of international community. Today, we know to which extent it is in the interest of everyone that democracy be effectively adopted by all nations. Recent history and also the events we have to face everyday in the different regions of this world show us that as long as this does not occur, a Damoclean sword will continue to hang over world peace and over the material, moral progress of our people, as well as the effective sharing of the benefit of civilization by all human beings.

Argentina has systematically sustained the need to realize a role of international organizations of all kinds as a dominant force and a useful instrument in trying to achieve international peace. In this framework, an active commitment to the values of democracy, pluralism, rule of law, and the protection of human rights, is the best contribution we can make in order to promote all the other objectives of the Group of 15.

I would like to repeat my thanks, very warm gratitude, at the fact that we have been allowed to be in the last moments of the meeting of the Group of 15 and to be able to repeat the offer of Argentina that in 1995 we will be able to meet again in our country in order to continue our deliberations there. One of the most fundamental topics Argentina is going to propose, and that has already been dealt with in the framework of the United Nations, is the creation of an organization termed White Helmets in order to make sure and support the struggle against poverty on our earth. I think we cannot be talking of justice and peace as long as there are poor people on this globe. I think we have reached an unavoidable and inescapable commitment of all countries, especially those that have greater possibilities, to be involved not only on the diplomatic level in a preventive way but fundamentally in the diplomacy of cooperation, solidarity. The White Helmets that the Republic of Argentina proposes do not mean to try and achieve only food and similar help for our brothers on this earth that need it, but to achieve a way of teaching man to work, teaching man to make use of the resources available on the earth to make sure that on the basis of his own efforts, he may have a more dignified life. We will continue to insist on this issue and we will make sure that in 1995, the White Helmets will be present in those countries and those places where marginal poverty is specially hard until we may in this way bring warmth and affection to those people who really need to be alleviated of the sacrifice they are subjected to. Thank you very much and we see you soon. [applause]

Leaders Hold News Conference

BK3003162894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] The G-15 countries have decided to adopt a united stand at the Marrakech meeting in Morocco, which has been convened to endorse the GATT accord. Addressing a joint press conference in New Delhi today, the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, said representatives of the leaders of the group will meet to formulate their stand. Replying to a question on putting up of new conditions on trade outside the framework of GATT, the Malaysian prime minister, Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, said that the developing countries have to adopt a common stand on such extraneous issues. He deplored the tendency of the rich countries to impose restrictive practices, including quota system and Super 301.

Referring to the problem of quorum at G-15 summit, Mr. Narasimha Rao said a proposal was discussed to make it more flexible. Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said the absence of some leaders of the summit should not be interpreted as loss of interest in the forum. He said it is difficult to get all the heads of state at one place at a particular time.

The Argentinian president, Dr. Carlos Menem, expressing total support for the meet, said commerce and trade should be made much more transparent.

Mr. Rao described the three-day summit as successful.

The joint communique issued at the end of the summit has called for setting up a monitoring mechanism to protect the interest of the developing countries while carrying out the new GATT accord. It also called for expansion of both the permanent and nonpermanent membership of the UN Security Council on democratic lines to give representation to the developing countries. Describing terrorism as one of the most dangerous threats to human rights, it urged the international community to cooperate in effectively combating the menace.

The seven-page communique welcomed the conclusion of the Uruguay Round and expressed the hope that it will lead to the creation of a nondiscriminatory multilateral trading system and expansion of trade, especially for the developing countries. Expressing concern over moves to bring in new issues like label standards and trade negotiations, the G-15 leaders urged the developed countries to refrain from actions which will affect the balance in the global trading system. On restructuring the UN, the communique said a stable formula should be devised to establish appropriate and dynamic interaction between the Security Council and the General Assembly.

The summit called for revitalization of the dialogue with the G-7 advanced nations to find meaningful solutions to acute problems like poverty, population growth, environment, and development. Referring to South-South cooperation, the communique said impressive progress made by some developing countries reinforces its rationale. The summit called for a comprehensive approach to solve the debt problem faced by some developing countries.

Argentina will host the fifth summit next year, while Zimbabwe will host the sixth.

Nigeria's Kingibe Gives Briefing

AB3103112294 Lagos NTA Television Network in English 2000 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Excerpts] The three-day G-15 meeting of heads of state and government ended today in India. A joint communique was issued. They noted that the work done by the group since its inception four years ago was satisfactory and reaffirmed their determination to pursue the objectives of strengthening of South-South consultation and cooperation and promoting the South's productive partnership with the North on issues of mutual benefit and common concern. [passage omitted]

Also while in India, [Nigerian] foreign affairs minister, Ambassador Babagana Kingibe, addressed a news conference. The briefing was to clear any misconception or misinformation on Nigeria and the G-15 meeting. Ambassador Babagana Kingibe said Nigeria's presence at the meeting was the reaffirmation of its belief in the ideals of the G-15. He said the democratic wind blowing through the world should also influence the membership of the UN Security Council and that the council should be expanded to reflect the changes in the world since 1945. On Bakassi, the minister said Nigeria was accommodating in the face of provocation. He also said government was working hard to firm up the naira.

Outcome of G-15 Summit Reported

BK3103044494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] The G-15 summit in New Delhi has taken a number of new initiatives to strengthen South-South cooperation. A committee is to be set up to work out trans-regional arrangements for promotion of trade finances and transfer of technology among member nations. The private sector and G-15 business forum will be closely associated with this. At the end of the summit yesterday, the leaders also directed that viable projects of cooperation should be implemented with more vigor. The foreign ministers of India, Argentina and Zimbabwe, who will now form the troika or the steering committee of the group, have been asked review the projects and examine their source of financing. India offered to share its technology in harnessing wind energy with other member nations.

AIR [All India Radio] correspondent reports that the heads of government and state expressed concern over attempts by developed countries to bring in new issues like labor standards in the talks on the GATT deal. This, they said, will adversely affect the export of developing nations.

The summit decided that the G-15 ministers will meet in the next two weeks before the authentication of the new GATT deal at Marrakech in Morocco to take coordinated action aginst such move. The joint communique issued after the summit called for setting up a monitoring mechanism to protect the interest of the developing countries during the implementation of new GATT accord. Official sources in New Delhi said the leaders also decided to maintain the practice of holding the G-15 summit annually, but with a flexible quorum.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Cairo Talks Stall, Resume; Agreement Announced

No Compromise Reached; Talks Suspended

NC3003162694 Paris AFP in English 1550 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, March 30 (AFP)—Israeli and PLO negotiators broke off talks here Wednesday [30 March] after failing to reach agreement on plans to protect Palestinians in the mosque massacre town of Hebron, a diplomatic source said.

The two sides met for several hours before suspending the talks, which were aimed at finalising agreement on deploying Palestinian police and international observers in Hebron.

The negotiators had been unable to reach any compromise and were dissatisfied with each other's proposals, the source said.

"An Egyptian mediator is shuttling between them to try to get them back around the table," said the source, who did not give specific reasons for the breakdown.

The delegations are trying to reach agreement on ways to protect Palestinians in Hebron, where a Jewish settler killed 30 Arab worshippers on February 25.

An accord would allow the resumption of talks on launching Palestinian autonomy, which have been suspended since the massacre.

Delegations Resume Discussions

NC3003171494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1705 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA)—The Palestinian and Israeli delegations led by Nabil Sha'th and Amnon Shahaq resumed their negotiations here this evening.

A Palestinian source has told MENA that the two sides will discuss how to reach an agreement on the security arrangements and international protection in Hebron in accordance with Security Council Resolution 904. They will also discuss the possibility of extending these arrangements to the Gaza Strip in view of the deteriorating situation there after the killing of six Palestinians in Gaza two days ago.

In its statement to MENA, the Palestinian source noted that the two sides have not yet reached an agreement on the security arrangements, adding that the negotiations are still going on in this regard.

A Palestinian-Israeli subcommittee met all night last night to discuss the volatile situation in the occupied territories. The negotiators referred the outcome of their discussion concerning these arrangements and international protection in Hebron and Gaza Strip to the Palestinian leadership in Tunis and the Israeli Government as part of the continued consultations.

MENA has learned from sources close to the negotiations that the two delegations have met only when the green light has been received from Tunis.

Israeli sources said that Israel has approved of the presence of 100 members of the Palestinian police force and 70 international observers armed with light weapons in Hebron. However, Palestinian sources say the Palestinian delegation has rejected the Israeli proposal.

Hebron Security Agreement Announced

NC3103052694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has stated that the Palestinian and Israeli delegations have agreed on the security arrangements in the city of Hebron in the occupied West Bank. Dr. Sha'th pointed out that there will be an international presence in Hebron but no Palestinian police will be deployed in the city. He added that the two delegations, in meetings lasting until early this morning, agreed to resume talks on the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. Dr. Sha'th noted that details of the agreement will be announced this morning.

[In a related report, Paris AFP in English at 2339 GMT on 30 March adds the following: "Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation will sign an agreement on security in the West Bank town of Hebron here at 10 a.m. (0800 GMT) Thursday, PLO negotiator Nabil Sha'th said.

["He said the conclusion of an agreement would be announced simultaneously in Jerusalem and the PLO headquarters of Tunis.

["A reliable Palestinian source said that under the accord the number of international observers in Hebron, where a Jewish settler massacred 30 Arab worshippers in a mosque on February 25, would be raised to 150.

["But no Palestinian policemen would be deployed in the town, the source added.

["The observers would come from Norway, Denmark and another western European country."]

Security Agreement Further Detailed

TA3103054894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] An Israel-PLO agreement on security arrangements in Hebron, to be signed by the delegation heads this morning, was reached in Cairo past midnight last night. Our correspondent in Cairo Arye Gus reports that under the agreement, an increased international force will be deployed in Hebron in exchange for the Palestinian consent to waive their demand for Palestinian police there.

PLO officials said that about 160 observers from three countries—Norway, Denmark, and Italy—will be stationed in Hebron, and as said, there will be no Palestinian police there.

The agreement has paved the way for the resumption of the Gaza and Jericho autonomy talks and for an early deployment of a Palestinian police force in Gaza.

Sides Give Accord 'Final Going Over'

NC3103095494 Paris AFP in English 0940 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, March 31 (AFP)—Israel and PLO put the final touches to a security agreement for the West Bank town of Hebron on Thursday before a scheduled signing ceremony, PLO spokesman Usamah Sharab said.

Israeli deputy chief of staff, General Amnon Shahaq, and PLO chief negotiator Nabil Sha'th were to sign the agreement.

"The two delegations are giving the text a final going over," he said.

Both sides had asked for slight changes to be made, a source close to the negotiators said.

The accord calls for the deployment of 160 international observers in Hebron, where a Jewish settler killed 30 Palestinian worshippers on February 25.

Implementation Within 1 Week

NC3103065494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 31 Mar (MENA)—The Palestinian and Israeli negotiators reached an agreement early this morning on the security arrangements and international protection in the city of Hebron in the occupied West Bank. They also agreed on the entry of vanguards of the Palestinian police force into Gaza and Jericho.

Sources close to the negotiations have told MENA that the implementation of the two agreements will begin within one week. The same sources noted that Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the talks, and Major General Amnon Shahaq, head of the Israeli delegation, will sign the agreement at 1000 [0800 GMT] this morning. The same sources told MENA that Israel had agreed to let 160 observers from Norway, Denmark, and Italy be deployed in Hebron and that the PLO had given up on the idea of the entry of a Palestinian police force into the city. The sources added that the international observer force will not be entirely dedicated to monitoring. Some will perform administrative work. Israel earlier proposed allowing 100 Palestinian policemen and 70 international observers into the city but the Palestinian side refused.

The same sources noted that an agreement was also reached on the entry of vanguards of the Palestinian police force into Gaza and Jericho before the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. The sources told MENA that the two delegations started consultations early this morning on the agenda of the talks on Gaza and Jericho, which have been suspended since 25 February following the massacre at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. The same sources noted that negotiations on this subject will last all day today and will resume next week in Cairo. The sources described the atmosphere of the talks as serious and said both sides worked to reach this agreement as soon as possible and begin talks on implementing the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

The same sources stressed that there is a mutual desire to honor the deadline for implementing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on 13 April. The sources noted that the drafting of the two agreements was concluded at 0100 this morning. The first agreement relates to Hebron and the second to the entry of vanguards of the Palestinian police force in Gaza and Jericho. The delegations had to wait until early this morning to receive a reply from the Palestinian leadership in Tunis.

Self-Rule Talks Expected To Resume

NC3103094594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 31 Mar (MENA)—MENA has learned that the Palestinian and Israeli delegations led by Dr. Nabil Sha'th and Major General Amnon Shahaq held a round of talks this morning to discuss the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement on Palestinian self-rule.

The two delegations held consultations at 0200 this morning to discuss the agenda of the negotiations, which seek to implement the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

Sources close to the negotiations have stated that the two delegations will resume their talks on Sunday [3 April] for two weeks in an attempt to complete all the outstanding topics relating to implementing the self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. An agreement between the two sides is expected to be signed on 12 April in Cairo, should everything proceed according to the agreed plan. The agreement will be signed by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Many reporters have gathered to attend today's signing of the agreement on security arrangements in Hebron and the entry of vanguards from the Palestinian police force in Gaza next week. Dr. Sha'th, adviser to the Palestinian president, and the Israeli deputy chief of staff, Maj. Gen. Shahaq, will sign the agreement. The ceremony will be attended by Ambassador Nabil Fahmi, representing the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH 17 Mar

NC3003144094

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 17 March issue of Cairo AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Call to Revive Islamic rule
2. Secularism Versus Islam
3. Antinormalization Committee
4. Roots of Jewish Thought Examined
5. Anti-Sudan British Conspiracy

CALL TO REVIVE ISLAMIC RULE

The 17 March issue of AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH devotes much of its space to the struggle between secular and Islamic currents.

A 5,000-word report by Hani al-Makkawi on page 3 speaks of the ills wrought by "morbid secularism". The article, which bears the headline: "What Has the World Gained by Drawing Away From Islam? ... Destruction, Corruption, Humiliation, and the Nations' Inability To Feed Themselves", addresses the following question to a large number of Islamic figures and academics: "What have the Muslims lost or gained by adopting secular methods in various spheres?"

Among the answers cited is one by Dr. Fawzi Ta'il, who lists the ills resulting from the abandonment of Islam, including the spread of AIDS, illegal drugs, weakened family ties, unemployment, spiritual emptiness, the specter of trade wars, and "moral catastrophes in the scientific field such as organ transplants; genetic engineering; artificial insemination; the right to end one's life, which they call suicide; and the right to get rid of a fetus, which they call abortion."

Noting that "60 percent of the world's population are idolaters", Ta'il asks: "If the West casts off its hostility to Islam, it will benefit from this great message that brings guidance to the people of the Earth."

Dr. Salim Najm, chairman of the Egyptian Relief Committee and deputy president of the Physicians Association, comments on the Islamic countries "disgraceful" attitude on the issues of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia, and Kashmir, which, he says, would be different if Islam ruled the world.

Islamic preacher Tal'at al-Shinnawi, from al-Daqahliyah Governorate, says that the Islamic world's abandonment of shari'ah has led to autocratic rule and produced a strong Israel.

Dr. Jamal 'Abd-al-Hadi, a professor of Islamic history, says that as a result of its alienation from its religion, the Islamic world suffered "an obliteration of Islamic identity following the collapse of the Caliphate [Ottoman Empire] and an intellectual invasion via foreign educational curricula and media, non-Islamic values, and foreign economic domination, particularly after the Gulf war."

'Abd-al-Hadi continues that alienation from Islam also caused the loss of Jerusalem, the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque, the chaste land of Palestine, and al-Andalus [Spain].

Dr. Mahmud Himayah, professor of comparative religion and head of Asyut University's Islamic Studies Department, criticizes "imported constitutions and laws," which fail to punish "immorality and corruption of the faith." He attacks secular writers who ridicule Islamic teachings and symbols. He extols such figures as Shaykh [Muhammad] al-Ghazali, Shaykh [Muhammad Mutawalli] al-Sha'rawi, and the Grand Imam of al-Azhar.

Himayah continues: "It is strange that when al-Azhar uses its natural right to confiscate the garbage of human thought [zibalat al-fikr al-bashari], the secularists and communists raise a brouhaha about freedom of belief and thought. It appears as if freedom of thought among these people means to attack sanctities and ridicule Islam."

Dr. 'Abd-al-Sattar al-Miliji, a professor at Suez Canal University and secretary general of the Scientific Professions Association, says that by drawing away from Islam, the Islamic world lost its respect. He adds: "We have become the world's plaything. Muslim blood has become the cheapest blood. The era's major tragedy in Bosnia-Herzegovina is two years old now but the Islamic world remains complacent and unconcerned. The European-U.S. West is fighting them by giving political, media, and diplomatic backing to their enemy. Russia and Greece are supplying the aggressors with soldiers and hardware. The international organizations, in the absence of Islam, are even worse."

Dr. 'Abdallah Hilal, a nuclear energy professor, contrasts Israel's early acquisition of nuclear power with the Islamic world's lack of success in this sphere, which he blames on inter-Arab differences and foreign intervention. Commenting on Egypt's plans in this field, he says: "When the Egyptian Nuclear Energy Authority was established to boost the economy by producing electricity and desalinating sea water, it had great success in its first years. It brought good repute to Egypt and other Arab and Islamic countries. Its cadres of trainees began to carry this knowledge to Arab, Islamic, and African states. Nuclear power plants were supposed to be built and feasibility studies began for eight such stations. However, Zionist-U.S. conspiracies did not allow the project to be completed. As a result of Egypt's links with the U.S., there were no Egyptian secrets. They let us make studies and plans, offer tenders, and spend much money and efforts only to interfere at the last moment to wreck our plans by using the weapons of aid, the IMF, and the World Bank. In addition, we were given frank instructions to abandon the project. As a result our trained cadres emigrated."

Shaykh al-Ghazali says that after the collapse of the caliphate, the Islamic world's enemies multiplied and communists and secularists became stronger. He remarks that alienation from Islam has rendered the Muslims very weak and notes that if the Islamic nation realizes what its role should be and returns to its God and shari'ah, it will be "qualified to lead the world."

SECULARISM VERSUS ISLAM

Under the headline "The Atheistic-Secularist Onslaught on Islam: Its Causes and Motives," Dr. Ahmad al-Majdub, in a 2,000-word column on page 2, brands Egyptian communists as selfish and superficial opportunists who, having lost their erstwhile Soviet master, are now attacking Islam and Muslims in order to demonstrate their credentials to the "rich new U.S. master." He notes that some of them are afraid of "transferring their loyalty directly to the West" in order not to expose their true opportunist nature. The column also defends Arab Muslims who helped the Afghans against the Soviet invaders, noting that most of them are not terrorists or extremists.

ANTINORMALIZATION COMMITTEE

A brief report by Hani al-Makkawi on page one discusses a conference organized by the Cairo University Faculty Club, which issued a statement announcing its determination to form a "committee for boycotting normalization with the Zionist enemy in all spheres of life." The conference appealed to every Egyptian who has any information on individuals and companies dealing with the "Zionist enemy" to submit it to the above committee.

In a related item by al-Makkawi, a 3,000-word report on page 4 recounts protests against the Hebron massacre carried out by students and faculty members at several Egyptian universities.

ROOTS OF JEWISH THOUGHT EXAMINED

A 2,000-word back-page article on page 10 offers an analysis of the "doctrinal and cultural roots" that made a "Zionist army physician take the liberty of assassinating hundreds of Palestinians," a reference to the shooting of Muslim worshipers in Hebron.

The writer, Dr. Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, says the Talmud teaches that the Gentiles are not human beings, the Torah permits the "Semites" to enslave the Canaanites, and Arabs have no right to resist Jewish settlement in Palestine. He says "Zionist racism" drew sustenance from "modern racist ideology in Europe and America," which is based on Greek philosophy and Roman culture, notably Aristotle's division of humanity into "Greek humans and non-Greek savages," a view which the writer says was adopted by the Romans. He says this ideology was further strengthened by Machiavellian thought.

The writer goes on to warn of possible nuclear attacks on Arab capitals such as Damascus, Baghdad, Khartoum, or even Mecca, especially as the United States has prevented the Arabs from acquiring similar weapons.

He says: "Such a possibility is not an illusion. The conditions to which we have been reduced encourage the sons of Israel and Judah to consider it."

He concludes by urging the overthrow of "the chains of secular government" because an Islamic government would respond with whatever weapons it had at hand and would proceed "on the path of glorious victory."

ANTI-SUDAN BRITISH CONSPIRACY

A 300-word report by Muhammad 'Urfah on page 1 notes "a secret document revealing a British conspiracy against the Muslims in Sudan that is designed to seize the Nile sources". This document is a letter circulated by a group of British opposition politicians and reportedly sent by British Prime Minister John Major to his foreign secretary Douglas Hurd, specifying Britain's position on Sudan and other issues, including Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In the letter Major reportedly advocates south Sudan's secession with the help of media publicity, claiming that Arab Muslims are oppressing the Christian southerners, the aim being to "confront political Islam" in that country and Africa in general.

The document is said to reveal a report about the Nile water, of which Israel hopes to have a share; the projected control of all governments in the region in the 21st century; and the "Zionists' cooperation with the Turkish Government against Arab regimes and Islamic organizations."

The document reportedly discloses a British attempt to unite south Sudan's rebel factions with the help of a British-influenced local church to guarantee British, rather than U.S., influence in the region.

The document is said to hint at "extensive military intervention in south Sudan under UN supervision."

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 22 Mar

NC3003154094

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 22 March issue of Cairo AL-SHA'B summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Freedom of the Press Violations Criticized
2. Shaykh 'Abd-al-Kafi Banned From Preaching
3. Islamist Detainees Go on Hunger Strike
4. Clinton's Double Standards Policy Criticized
5. Religious Scholar Warns Against Cultural Invasion
6. Union Criticizes Clinton's Jerusalem Remarks

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS VIOLATIONS CRITICIZED

Under a banner headline, the paper features a front-page 400-word statement by the Labor Party's Political Bureau in which it decries the action of the state prosecution organs in summoning the officials and writers of the newspaper AL-SHA'B for questioning concerning "unfounded accusations" about what the paper published in connection with the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. The statement says that the "State Security Investigations Department is considered a police organ responsible for maintaining security and order, and cannot assume the role of a press censor."

In a related unattributed 150-word report on this issue's front page, AL-SHA'B says that the "Egyptian Human Rights Organization has called on the authorities to stop the ongoing investigations by the Supreme State Security Office against officials of the Labor Party and AL-SHA'B newspaper regarding articles the paper has published in protest against the Israeli massacre in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque."

A 2,500-word editorial by Majdi Ahmad Husayn on pages 1 and 2 highlights the authorities' disregard for the freedom of the press and defends AL-SHA'B's reports and coverage of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and its stories of corruption.

On pages 1 and 7, the paper publishes a 300-word report that Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad, deputy leader of the Labor Party, has been summoned for questioning regarding an article he wrote in the 8 March issue of AL-SHA'B under the headline: "This Popular Awakening Must Continue in Order To Correct Our Internal Conditions." The report says that Murad is accused of inciting hatred of the regime, preventing the state authorities from exercising their powers, and supporting the ideas of the fundamentalist groups.

SHAYKH 'ABD-AL-KAFI BANNED FROM PREACHING

A 150-word front-page report by 'Amir 'Abd-al-Mun'im notes that "the security services have banned Shaykh Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Kafi from preaching in his Asad Ibn-al-Furat Mosque in al-Duqqi and from giving religious lessons. The mosque has been placed under the control of the Awqaf Ministry."

ISLAMIST DETAINEES GO ON HUNGER STRIKE

A brief 30-word report on page 1 says that "the imprisoned Islamist detainees have declared a hunger strike in protest against ill-treatment, denial of visitation rights, confiscation of blankets and clothing, and the torture of some detainees on a regular basis in the Abu-Za'bal Prison. The strike began a few days ago in the al-'Aqrab, Abu-Za'bal, and Turah prisons."

CLINTON'S DOUBLE STANDARDS POLICY CRITICIZED

In an 1,800-word article on page 5, Mustafa Mashhur, a Muslim Brotherhood leader, strongly criticizes U.S. President Bill Clinton for his remarks on Jerusalem and his Middle East policy, assertomg Clinton has double standards favoring Israel. He calls on the Muslims and the Muslim rulers to close ranks and face these challenges.

RELIGIOUS SCHOLAR WARNS AGAINST CULTURAL INVASION

In a 300-word article on page 12, religious scholar Muhammad al-Ghazali warns against the West's cultural invasion, which he says has created bands of apostates who are destroying the religious heritage. He says that these "apostate bands are deliberately mixing freedom of thought and freedom of disbelief." He concludes: "We must confront these apostate bands with the necessary contempt and hostility, and unveil the parties for which they work so that the people can beware of them."

UNION CRITICIZES CLINTON'S JERUSALEM REMARKS

On page 12, Al-SHA'B publishes a 350-word statement by the Union of Scientific Professions about the U.S. President's statement on Jerusalem. The statement says that "contrary to all diplomatic norms and international laws and treaties, and under pressure from the Zionist lobby, U.S. President Bill Clinton made a press statement in which he in effect recognized Islamic Jerusalem as the eternal capital of world Zionism, which has usurped Palestine." The statement adds that the union sees in this "irresponsible statement a clear threat to the Muslims and the Arabs and a declaration of war against our nation by the U.S. President."

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 22 Mar

NC3003184394

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 22 March issue of Cairo 'AQIDATI summarizes articles that are Islamic nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Al-Azhar Defended; Mufti on Fatwas
2. Lawsuit Against Use of Satellite Dishes
3. Religious Seminar Stresses Islamic Values, Mosque's Role
4. Attack Seen as Part of Scheme Against Islam
5. Relations With Non-Muslim Believers
6. Islamic Cultural Option Versus Western Culture
7. Dialogue in Islam
8. The Islamic Economic System

AL-AZHAR DEFENDED; MUFTI ON FATWAS

In an approximately 400-word article on page 24, Chief Editor al-Sayyid 'Abd al-Ra'uf rebuts those who "ignorantly and maliciously" accuse al-Azhar of being a "backward and narrow-minded institution restricting the freedom of thought and creativity." He maintains that al-Azhar, with its weight, history, role, and status "will always remain too strong and mighty for the weak ones to harm." Apart from being a beacon of knowledge and learning, the writer says al-Azhar has all along been the springboard for national struggle against foreign occupation and aggression. Now, the writer argues, "the voice of intelligence and moderation against extremism and terrorism is unleashed from al-Azhar, and from there the voice of knowledge and faith is unleashed to counter the attack that is being launched against religion and its principles, values, and symbols under the pretext of freedom of thought and creativity."

In a related 500-word article on page 10, columnist Majdi Salim discusses how some people, against the law, are publicly criticizing some judicial rulings in newspapers. He notes the "clamor raised by some people against the ruling of the Administrative Judiciary Court and the State Council giving al-Azhar the legal right to review artistic works, whether audio, visual, or printed, as far as religious matters are concerned." The author comments: "The clamor against al-Azhar and the law was raised in the name of freedom and liberty. Do they know law better than the men of law, or are they—to achieve their objectives—ready to sacrifice even the laws that protect them and the homeland?" Salim concludes: "At any rate, it is not strange for this group, which is used to attacking ethics and religious values, to throw the rules of the judiciary overboard."

In a 120-word report by Mahmud 'Ushb on page one, Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, the mufti of the republic, says any capable Muslim can pass fatwas [religious rulings], but those who do not have the right answers must not try to make fatwas. The mufti is cited as saying that specialist ulema must be consulted about fatwas and religious matters in movies and television dramas. He says: "Religion is sacred and everybody must be committed to its rules and act accordingly. Passing fatwas without the required knowledge is a major sin."

LAWSUIT AGAINST USE OF SATELLITE DISHES

A 150-word report on page three says that a young lawyer from Aswan has filed a lawsuit demanding that "all decisions allowing citizens to possess satellite dishes be rescinded." In his petition, the lawyer says that "explicit sex movies" available on satellite television "violate Article 2 of the Constitution, which states that Islam is the religion of the state. They also violate Article 10, which stipulates that the state shall guarantee protection of motherhood and childhood, care for the young, and ensure the right conditions for the development of their talents."

RELIGIOUS SEMINAR STRESSES ISLAMIC VALUES, MOSQUE'S ROLE

An approximately 2,000-word report by Ibrahim Nasr and Mamduh al- 'Ashri on page four gives an account of a religious seminar arranged by the newspaper at a Cairo school. According to the reporters, the ulema addressing the audience stressed the importance of Islamic upbringing and noted the important role of the mosque "not only as a place for worship, but also as a comprehensive cultural and social establishment." The speakers noted the organic bond between religion and culture.

ATTACKS SEEN AS PART OF SCHEME AGAINST ISLAM

A 300-word article by Basyuni al-Hulwani on page six discusses a television serial on the era of a Muslim caliph and concludes that Muslims have historically been the target of foreign hatred and conspiracies. He says: "History proves that we have always been the target of ambitions often supported from outside. The forces of evil, which do not want Islam to be active, find local hands to implement their wishes. This is what we are currently suffering from. Will we correctly read what is happening and realize that the scheme against stability in Egypt is part of a comprehensive scheme to attack Islam throughout the world? And will we try to answer one question to realize who is the real beneficiary from attempts to attack Egypt? The question is: Who are the enemies of Islam?"

RELATIONS WITH NON-MUSLIM BELIEVERS

An approximately 1,300 word article by Samir al-Hudaybi on page six discusses Muslims' relations with "the people of the book"; that is, followers of the other heavenly religions. The writer begins by noting that one of the "harmful common beliefs hindering an Islamic upsurge is that paradise is exclusively for Muslims." The writer provides Koranic texts to make the point that followers of the other heavenly religions are also believers. He writes: "Belief is a human phenomenon in all heavenly religions. Here, believers' hearts are full of virtue and knowledge that there is a creator and a day of judgment. But Islam is a way of life and the best of all religions; that is, the best way of life, and Muslims are required to highlight it and its virtues to the entire world." The writer concludes: "God is the lord of all humans. All men are God's people; He is more gracious to people than their fathers; He is absolute justice, and no one will enter paradise except those who have virtuous hearts that know no hatred and love others as they love themselves."

ISLAMIC CULTURAL OPTION VERSUS WESTERN CULTURE

An approximately 700-word article by Islamic writer Dr. Muhammad 'Amarah on page seven discusses the Islamic cultural project, analyzing the factors that make the Islamic option "the only cultural alternative capable of competing with the Western cultural option on an international level." The writer maintains that Western culture, which rearranged its house after the fall of the Marxist model, "does not want Islam, its nation, and its culture to grow strong and independent." He explains: "The strength, upsurge, and independence of this nation mean the fall of the biggest spoils from the mouth of the 'Western lion,' a real earthquake in the international balance of power, and the return of the Islamic culture's influence on the deep-seated world cultures." The writer determines that "the West, as history certifies, views the culture of Islam as the first rival, the only competitor, and the main alternative to its culture in the international cultural struggle."

DIALOGUE IN ISLAM

Columnist Hamid Isma'il writes on page nine the 500-word second part of an article headlined "Freedom of Thought in Islam." He says the Koran urges meaningful dialogue and opposes fanaticism. He notes how early Muslim jurisprudents discussed their differences without any fanaticism or encroachment on the rights of their opponents. They never allowed their differences to develop into conflicts or splits. Isma'il concludes that "tolerance and mutual respect characterized the general life of our early jurisprudents, who fully understood the spirit of Islam and its principles."

THE ISLAMIC ECONOMIC SYSTEM

Page 10 contains an approximately 800-word report by Tariq 'Abdallah on an interview with Dr. Ja'far 'Abd-al-Salam, director of al-Azhar's Islamic Economy Center. 'Abd-al-Salam stresses the importance of the Islamic economy in pushing the economic and social life toward a comprehensive development. He notes that current man-made economic systems are trying to deny the existence of an Islamic economic system because of its competitiveness, which no other economic system can match. He argues: "The current dominance of certain economic systems is only a mater of time; they will end like other ones, and nothing will remain but the economic dealings imposed by Islam." "These dealings," he adds, "are not a man-made theory, but ones imposed by the book of God [Koran] and the Sunnah [sayings and deeds] of his prophet."

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 25 Mar

NC3003195294

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 25 March issue of Cairo AL-SHA'B summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Israeli Academic Center Spies on Islamic Group
2. Student Demonstrations Force Israeli Ambassador to Work at

Home
3. Police-Islamic Group Vendetta in Asyut
4. Human Rights Violations in Prisons
5. Islamist Cleric Defended

ISRAELI ACADEMIC CENTER SPIES ON ISLAMIC GROUP

A 5,000-word "analytical study" by Rif'at Sayyid Ahmad on page 3 discusses the Israeli Academic Center in Cairo and its "spying activity and attempts to penetrate the Islamic Group in Egypt, in coordination with the Israeli Embassy and the Mosad apparatus, as well as its recruitment of Egyptian youth to spy for Israel under the cover of scholarships in the Mosad-affiliated Ulpan 'Aqiva Institute in Jerusalem."

The study says that AL-SHA'B has obtained a number of "secret messages" sent by the center to "researchers and spies of both sexes." The messages, of which samples in Hebrew and Arabic are published, begin by thanking the persons involved for earlier services, enclose large sums of money—varying between 2,000 and 5,000 Egyptian pounds—and close with a specific request for the person to continue to send reports and studies about extremist Islamic groups in his governorate. The messages are usually signed by Dr. Emanu'el Marx, director of the Israeli Academic Center in Cairo, and bear the center's stamp and the Israeli Embassy's secret stamp. A copy of each message is forwarded to the "official concerned" at the embassy.

Maintaining that the center violates the protocol under which it was established, which describes the center as "a private organization established under and subject to Egyptian laws," the study asks if the center really operates in accordance with Egyptian laws and if "collecting information, recruiting spies, and penetrating the Islamic group with the goal of destroying it and the homeland from within can be described as activities subject to Egyptian laws." Noting that the protocol was careful to emphasize the dissociation of the center's scientific undertakings from any political activity, the study wonders why copies of these secret messages are sent to the Israeli Embassy. It deduces that "the center practices clear political spying in coordination with the Israeli Embassy."

The study cites an "official letter" the Israeli Foreign Ministry sent to the center's previous director about four Egyptians who were supposed to take a course at the Ulpan 'Aqiva Institute, "which belongs to Mosad, according to the Jews themselves." It asks: Since when does the Israeli Foreign Ministry concern itself with teaching Hebrew to Egyptian students and researchers?

The study also cites the center's "secret report" to the Israeli Foreign Ministry, which the Egyptian Foreign Ministry knows nothing about. The report talks about the deteriorating security situation in Egypt, several attempts to assassinate senior officials, and the persons who have been recruited. Of these, the report mentions a "counselor who had a financial problem with the Jewish Congress in Switzerland in 1988." The counselor claimed to have lost $30,000, and the report adds that "this sum should be provided so that we will not lose him as an important source and a weighty friend." The report also talks about the center's spying activity and methods applied in penetrating national research groups and requests increased financial and moral support for the persons cooperating with it, the study says.

The study finally notes that an Egyptian working in the center has been caught selling the center's documents to Arab and foreign reporters.

STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS FORCE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO WORK AT HOME

A 300-word report by Mu'tazz al-Hadidi and Nasir Faruq on page 1 says that Cairo University students organized demonstrations at the campus during the past few days, in which "they shouted anti-Zionist slogans and denounced the continued massacres against the Palestinian people." The students burned the Israeli flag, raised the Palestinian flag, and denounced the government's feeble stance.

The report adds that the Muslim Brotherhood students at 'Ayn Shams University organized demonstrations last Tuesday to denounce Clinton's remarks about Jerusalem. In a statement they issued, the students said that their demonstrations "forced the Israeli ambassador in Cairo to perform his job from his home in al-Ma'adi, file a request with the government to permit him to use 40 guards, and send a memorandum to the Zionist Ministry of Tourism, warning it against the organization of excursions to Egypt."

POLICE-ISLAMIC GROUP VENDETTA IN ASYUT

A 350-word report by Qutb al-'Arabi on page 1 maintains that clashes between police and the Islamic Group in Asyut have turned into "a fierce vendetta." The report adds that the Central and Public Security forces have placed a siege around the al-Walidiyah neighborhood in Asyut over a week ago and prevented the people from entering or leaving.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN PRISONS

A 200-word report on pages 1 and 7 says prison inmates have been subjected to a one-month "discipline campaign," in which dozens were injured and deprived of food and water, their personal effects confiscated, and their heads and beards shaved inhumanely.

ISLAMIST CLERIC DEFENDED

Mustafa Bakri's 1,500-word article on page 4 criticizes the government for preventing Islamic cleric 'Umar 'Abd-al-Kafi from preaching. He affirms that 'Abd-al-Kafi does not preach violence and has always warned against it.

Bakri maintains that only groups that pursue "political violence" stand to gain from this measure. He emphasizes the need for an exhaustive, rudimentary solution for society's problems and demands political and intellectual freedom for all nationals, without discrimination.

A related 150-word report by 'Amir 'Abd-al-Mun'im on page 7 contends that 'Abd-al-Kafi was banned from preaching because of security reports submitted to the political leadership on the type of audience that frequents his mosque. Security reports indicated that the majority of his audience were rich businessmen who reside in high-class neighborhoods, state officials, and famous artists, 'Abd-al-Mun'im says. These reports also noted 'Abd-al-Kafi's ability to persuade his listeners. The report adds that the ban was preceded by repeated warnings that 'Abd-al-Kafi might be arrested.

ICO Issues Statement on Palestinian Land Day

LD3003215494 Riyadh SPA in English 1939 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Jeddah, March 30, (SPA)—The general secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] has reaffirmed the Islamic nation's solidarity with the just struggle of the Palestinian people to restore their firm, unequivocal national rights of self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital on Palestinian soil, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

This came in a statement issued today by the OIC Secretary General Dr. Hamed al-Ghabid on the occasion of the Palestinian Land Day on March 30.

He said this occasion comes at a time when Palestinian people are suffering from the escalation of killing, oppression and persecution by Israeli authorities since the Hebron massacre.

He pointed out that Tuesday's carnage which claimed the lives of six Palestinians and wounded scores others at the Jabalia refugee camps and was committed by Israeli occupation forces is a new proof of continued Israeli hostilities and non-commitment to the establishment of just and comprehensive peace in the region.

He said this confirms the necessity to secure immediate international protection for the Palestinian people as the current situation triggered by Israeli inhuman practices warns of a near explosion and an escalation of violence and threatens to destroy the peace process.

Dr. Ghabid expressed the OIC's strong condemnation of the killing and repression carried out by Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian people.

He urged the international community to shoulder its responsibilities and force Israel to halt its criminal acts immediately and secure international protection for the Palestinian people.

Tehran To Host Conference for Moroccan Theologians

PM3003164594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Munsif al-Sulaymi: "Moroccan Ulema To Discuss Sunni-Shiite Rapprochement in Tehran"]

[Text] Rabat—A diplomatic source in Rabat has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that a delegation of Moroccan ulema will visit Tehran at the beginning of April to attend the meetings of the Joint Ulema Committee which was formed last year with the aim of bringing the Shiite and Sunni sects closer together.

The Moroccan delegation to the meeting, which will be held in the Iranian capital in the next few days, will include Qarawiyah [Academy] ulema and advisers from the Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ministry with the supervision of senior Royal Court officials. Most prominent among the Moroccan participants will be Cheikh Mohamed Lazrak, Ahmed El Ghazi El Houseyni, and Abdelkarim El Daoudi.

The meetings of the Joint Committee will be attended on the Iranian side by ulema and experts from the Assembly for Inter-Islamic Understanding and the Sunni Affairs Committee at the Office of the Iranian President.

Most prominent among the Iranian figures who will participate in the meetings will be Hojjat ol-Eslam V'eizzadeh-Khorasani, secretary general of the Assembly for Inter-Islamic Understanding, and Ishaq Medani, presidential adviser on Sunni affairs.

The conferees in Tehran will discuss the possibility of crystallizing basic features for dialogue between the ulema of the two sects and of arriving at general theological common grounds of jurisprudence that would form the basis of a program for the work of the committee, which was born last year in Rabat after lengthy meetings held at the Moroccan Academy.

Theological sources who will participate in the meetings say that the dialogue between the Moroccan and Iranian ulema will concentrate on trying to crystallize the points of agreement between the Shiite and Sunni sects which had already been underscored at the Rabat meetings, especially the principles of Islamic unity and solidarity, tolerance, dialogue, goodwill, and rejection of violence, coercion, and arrogance. These principles are expected to form the basis of a practical and elaborate program for cooperation between the Sunni and Shiite theological and jurisprudence institutions, and it is not unlikely that rejection of violence and intransigence will be one of its main features. That is the issue considered to be at the core of the disagreement between the religious and political authorities in Iran.

The new round of Sunni-Shiite dialogue constitutes another endeavor to enhance the call for inter-Islamic understanding and for dialogue between the Sunnis and the Shiites originally made by King Hassan II at the start of the new hegira century about 10 years ago. He made that call in his message to Muslims on the occasion of the new century and he reaffirmed that call in the summer of 1990. The past two years witnessed the beginning of the dialogue process between Moroccan and Iranian ulema. Last month Morocco welcomed a delegation of Lebanese Shiite ulema who attended the Ramadan lectures which are usually delivered in the presence of the Moroccan king.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Meets Ambassadors on Jabalyah Killings

Receives Several Western Envoys

JN3003201294 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] During meetings with several Western ambassadors at the PLO headquarters in the Tunisian capital, brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] stressed the need to ensure international protection for the Palestinians of the occupied territories. He underscored the role Europe can play to ensure this protection.

These remarks were made in the aftermath of the martyrdom of six Fatah heroes in the Jabalyah camp the day before yesterday, Monday, at the hands of the terrorist undercover units affiliated with the Israeli Army.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar also underlined the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution 904, which provides for international protection for the Palestinian people. He held the United States and Russia, cosponsors of the peace process, responsible for providing this protection.

Brother leader President Abu-'Ammar described the assassination of the six Fatah heroes in the Jabalyah camp as a new massacre. He added: In this regard, the first possibility that comes to mind is that Rabin might have been well aware of the plans to commit these massacres. He might have chosen to condone them. The second possibility is that these massacres were committed by Israeli Army units without Rabin's prior knowledge. One can derive no comfort from either possibility. This has grave repercussions on the entire peace process, he maintained.

Meets With U.S. Ambassador

LD3003182194 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] This morning, the brother President leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received the U.S. ambassador in Tunis.

During the meeting, the brother President leader Abu-'Ammar charged his excellency the U.S. ambassador with conveying a message to the U.S. Administration in connection with the Palestinian stance toward the Israeli replies to the Palestinian demands on providing international protection to our Palestinian people and implementing Security Council Resolution 904.

The recent developments in connection with the Palestinian issue and the events currently taking place in the occupied Palestinian territories were also discussed during the meeting.

Receives Russian Ambassador

LD3003180894 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, receieved this morning the ambassador of the Russian Federation.

During the meeting, the brother president Abu-'Ammar charged his excellency the Russian ambassador with conveying a message to the Russian leadership in connection with the recent developments of the situation and the exerted efforts to implement Security Council Resolution 904, particularly after the Israeli replies, which were brought by the Israeli envoy in response to our stances following the Hebron and Gaza massacres.

Fatah: Jabalyah Killings To Affect Negotiations

JN3003201794 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] The Palestine National Liberation Movement, Fatah, has asserted that the Jabalyah camp massacre is a premeditated murder meant to liquidate Fatah elements.

In a statement distributed in the occupied territories yesterday, the Fatah Movement added: This new massacre will negatively affect the course of the negotiations.

The Fatah Movement held the Israeli Government and the Israeli military establishment responsible for the massacres committed against our people. It reiterated that the six Palestinian victims were deliberately killed by the bullets of the terrorist Israeli undercover units.

Fatah Accuses Israel of 'Premeditated' Killings

LD3003195594 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Excerpt] The Palestinian National Liberation Movement, Fatah, accused the occupying forces of working to destroy the peace process by the premeditated assassination of a number of its cadres in Gaza. The movement, in a statement yesterday evening, held Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin responsible for this crime. The following is the full text of the statement:

In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate, a statement issued by the Palestinian National Liberation Movement, Fatah:

The new, hideous massacre that the Israeli forces committed on 28 March 1994 against a number of cadres and leaders of the Fatah's movement's organizational action in Gaza—and which was carried out by an organized and premeditated plot—confirms a determination to destroy the peace process.

It was a direct assassination in which targets were picked out and monitored by special forces in order to hit the officials in charge of organizing our movement and dealing a blow to their role of struggle, whether on the peace process level or on the level of future building and development.

Our movement, Fatah, while stressing its denunciation and condemnation of the crime targetted against them on the eve of the Cairo meeting aimed at taking measures to restore security and stability in Hebron, holds the Israeli Army leadership, headed by Defense and Prime Minister Rabin, responsible for this crime.

We also strongly condemn the position the Israelis initially announced when they believed that those assassinated were members of Hamas and not Fatah. It is an exposed attempt to cause a division between Fatah and Hamas, jihad and the popular movement, al-Fidah, al-Nidal, al-Tahrir al-Filistiniyah, and others of our people's struggling forces.

The attempt to divide the children of our people through killings and assassinations is rejected in principle. Our concern for the blood of the sons of our movement is the same concern for the blood and lives of all strugglers and all our struggling, steadfast, and persevering people.

The Israeli Government's praise today of the criminal act and the precision of its execution proves Rabin's determination to impose a de facto situation that will impede the continuing implemention of measures serving the peace process. It is trying to impose realities on us that would lead to hammering a wedge between Palestinians and cause trouble between the children of our people.

Our condemnation of the forces opposing peace imposes upon us the duty to protect our people by all means, including implementation of Resolution 904, which calls for international protection for our people, to take all cautionary and precautionary methods, and to make strong denunciations to put a limit to those criminal acts that legitimize the spilling of Palestinian blood. We remind our brothers that we face the same treatment as our Algerian brothers received by the secret army movement and the settlers in Algeria. It is being repeated on our Palestinian land with units of the Israeli Army conniving with armed settlers. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Adviser: No Alternative to Peace Process

AU3103074694 Berlin DIE TAGESZEITUNG in German 30 Mar 94 p 8

[Interview with Ahmad al-Tibi, one of 'Arafat's advisers, by Julia Albrecht; place and date not given: "I Was Naively Optimistic"]

[Text] [Albrecht] The day before yesterday, in the evening, the Israeli military shot six al-Fatah members in the Jabalyah refugee camp in Gaza. How can such acts of violence be prevented?

[Al-Tibi] Only by implementing the peace agreement. Even though things will not become completely peaceful then, the acts of violence will at least be reduced.

[Albrecht] Yesterday, it seemed that the peace negotiations would be continued now. Is this still true?

[Al-Tibi] The PLO Executive Committee is currently discussing how things are going to continue after the latest crime.

[Albrecht] You call it a crime.

[Al-Tibi] Yes, it is a crime. It is just a continuation of the Hebron massacre. First, Baruch Goldstein shot 30 people. Then, during the following eight days, the Israeli military shot 30 Palestinians. And now another six Palestinians were killed. It will be very difficult to continue the peace talks this week.

[Albrecht] What is your demand to the Israelis?

[Al-Tibi] They should stop killing us. They should make sure that the atmosphere changes and they finally see us as human beings.

[Albrecht] Do you trust Rabin, who is defense minister and prime minister at the same time?

[Al-Tibi] Defense Minister Rabin is hurting the peace efforts of Prime Minister Rabin.

[Albrecht] How, do you think, did this most recent shooting of Palestinians come about?

[Al-Tibi] The only reason that can be behind that is that there was an order to stage a massacre. If the Israeli military goes to the refugee camps, it does so only for one specific reason. In addition, these soldiers were not normal military. They were a special unit that went in to shoot people. Who gave the order to go to the refugee camp one day before the continuation of the talks?

[Albrecht] A few days ago you were still optimistic about the peace process. You spoke of "historic changes" and of the "mutual recognition of the two peoples."

[Al-Tibi] Yes, I was naively optimistic.

[Albrecht] Why?

[Al-Tibi] Because we were very close to an interim solution after the massacre in Hebron. Nevertheless, I am sure that, in the end, we will implement the peace agreement.

[Albrecht] The trust of the Palestinians in their leadership is constantly decreasing. While the leadership wants to continue the peace talks, the people at the grassroots demand not to continue negotiations.

[Al-Tibi] Yes, I just had a telephone call from Gaza. I was asked to tell 'Arafat that he should stop the peace talks. However, there is no alternative to the peace process. Of course, our credibility has suffered. The Palestinians still do not see any change or improvement. I am sure that at the moment when the agreement comes into force and when the Palestinians see that the Israeli military withdraws, the support for peace will be there again. I know my people.

Hebron Emergency Committee Warns 'Arafat

JN3003122594 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Mar 94 pp 24, 21

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] The Hebron emergency committee has addressed a strongly worded statement to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, warning him against the consequences of signing any agreement that deals with their city.

In a statement sent to President 'Arafat, a copy of which was obtained by SAWT AL-SHA'B, the Hebron emergency committee, which represents all the city's sectors and factions, said its approval should be obtained before the signing of any agreement that deals with their city. It called for the removal of all settlements through the total elimination of the occupation of all the territories, including Jerusalem, and securing international protection for the Palestinian people to replace the occupation forces according to international laws.

Hebron's warning came after prominent figures in the city rejected a decision by the Palestinian president to appoint a council for the Hebron Governorate.

A number of those appointed by 'Arafat as members of the council rejected the decision, including Dr. Nabil al-Ja'bari, former member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation. Al-Ja'bari sent a cable to the Palestinian president telling him that he reviewed the name list of the so-called Hebron Governorate council and that he rejects being appointed as member of this council.

In his cable, al-Ja'bari said the difficult circumstances facing the Governorate of Hebron and the pure blood watering its soil prompts them to close ranks and unite their words to confront the common enemy. He said the men of the Governorate of Hebron are capable of finding a legislative body with a popular base to protect their interests and rights.

Al-Ja'bari affirmed to the Palestinian people that he does not accept an appointment to this council. He said he was not consulted before his name was thrown in, noting this name list will not be representative of the Hebron Governorate, no matter how many names are included, because there are well-known bases for appointment.

'Urayqat Interviewed on Talks, Developments

JN2903131194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Mar 94 p 21

[Interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington peace talks with Israel, by Samir al-Masri in Jerusalem; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Masri] The Hebron massacre revealed large gaps in the Oslo agreement. Some of these gaps are related to the subject of protecting the Palestinian people. What prevented this issue and others from being discussed in Oslo?

['Urayqat] I am surprised some local and Arab voices are trying to exploit this horrible massacre to project the weakness or impotence of the Palestinian leadership. I do not think this is the fault of the leadership. What is required is that all efforts should be pooled to besiege the terrorist Israeli action, not to blame the Palestinian leadership. Gaps in the Oslo agreement stem originally from the Madrid conference and the Israeli terms that were accepted prior to participation in the conference. The terms were very unfair to us, although we were the last to join the negotiations on the basis of the Madrid formula. Accordingly, the unfair terms in Madrid were reflected in the Oslo agreement, which revealed pretty obvious gaps, including the issues postponed to the final phase. Among them is the issue of settlements, which are considered time bombs that can explode anytime, anywhere, in the university, street, farm, or market.

Naturally, agreement to postpone the settlements issue was something Palestinians accepted reluctantly, not willingly. The massacre proved what we said before: The issue of discussing the protection of Palestinians from settler attacks cannot be postponed. It has become clear that Israel cannot prevent the settlers' terrorist operations. We hope the world will realize no negotiations can lead to a successful conclusion of the peace process unless the issue of settlements is on the agenda.

Once again, we warn against the current campaign that seeks to take revenge or disparage the Palestinian leadership. The newspapers are devoting 10 percent to the massacre and 90 percent to Palestinian rift. Concentrating on and deepening the Palestinian rift is not in our interest. We take pride in the fact that we are the only people in the region who can directly criticize the president. This does not exist in any other Arab state. I stress that efforts should be pooled toward providing protection of the Palestinian people and exposing Israeli terrorism after it has developed in an unprecedented manner.

[Al-Masri] In the light of the Hebron massacre and based on what you said in your reply to the first question, is the Oslo formula still valid for negotiations, particularly after the criticism of this formula by a big power like Russia, which called for a new conference that would supersede the failed formula?

['Urayqat] The question to ask is if the peace process based on the Madrid formula is valid. This formula was based on the principle of land for peace. Thus far, Israel has not abided, even formally, by the principle of withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967, with the exception of talk about withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. Israeli practices on the ground indicate the continuation of settlement activity, intransigence, and terrorism. There is also Israel's failure to implement any international legitimacy resolutions. This largely overshadows the entire peace process. The question now is if the current peace process between the Arabs and Israel has any future. The matter is no longer connected with a Palestinian-Israeli agreement. The have endured the major burden of the peace process because they were in the forefront. The question now concerns all. It does not have to do only with Oslo, but the entire peace process on all the tracks. I think Israel's failure to abide by withdrawal raises serious questions about the feasibility of the peace process.

[Al-Masri] How do you view the recent Russian initiative?

['Urayqat] It is very good. I am glad Russia has begun to get out of its seclusion and its complete subservience to the United States. When we began the Madrid conference there were two loud voices. A few months later, the Soviet Union collapsed and the United States was alone in the arena, drafting and deciding world policy. The Russian initiative signals the beginning of Russian disengagement from the United States. Russia has begun to realize that the peace process in its current form cannot succeed. Consequently, Russia has begun to demand a new mechanism. This is a good step that should be studied thoroughly and carefully. It should also be supported even if Israel and the United States reject it.

[Al-Masri] But Russia is still politically dependent on the U.S. Administration. Some believe the Russian initiative is nothing but a tactical move made in agreement with the United States to put indirect pressure on Israel. This is because Russia's need for aid renders it unable to lay out a foreign policy that is independent of U.S. policy, at least under the current circumstances. How do you view that?

['Urayqat] In light of its economic and political problems, I cannot tell what Russia can or cannot do. However, no one should underestimate Russia's regional, continental, or international weight. Therefore, Russia's noncompliance with U.S. decisions is a step that must be encouraged and blessed by all Arabs. As for the U.S. stand on the Russian initiative, I believe decision makers at the U.S. State Department still think in accordance with the Likud's mentality. Clinton's objective is to emerge before public opinion with a procedural, formal solution aimed at saving Israel, not the peace process. It has been proved to us that the U.S. decision making circles are controlled by the Likud mentality. They are more Israeli than Israel itself. Therefore, the U.S. reservation about the Russian initiative raises doubts about the fate of the peace process.

[Al-Masri] Palestinians had linked the resumption of the negotiations to the return of the Marj al-Zuhur deportees. We know what happened later. Afterward, Palestinians insisted on a certain position regarding the crossings issue. However, later, they approved the Cairo agreement. Will the same thing happen regarding the Hebron massacre? Or will the Palestinian leadership learn from its previous policies?

['Urayqat] We cannot judge this issue in isolation from the prevailing circumstances. If we want to deal with politics, we cannot raise the same slogans all the time. Politics is a continuous process through which the politician seeks to achieve the best of what can be achieved. But such attempts do not take place in isolation from the various parties's conflicting interests and the pressures that are being exercised. One day, we will disclose how the Palestinian delegation returned to the negotiations and the circumstances and pressures that are exercised against the delegation on all levels. The question is not that of making concessions or not. It really has to do with people's lives and security. If the peace process does not protect human lives, then what use does it have? Therefore, the Palestinian delegation cannot hold negotiations with Israel if there is no agreement on international protection for the Palestinians.

[Al-Masri] The White House announced that it did not want Palestinian preconditions for the resumption of the negotiations and that it would exercise the veto at the UN Security Council if the PLO insists on its conditions. Does this mean that the PLO will return to the negotiations without preconditions? Or will it ignore the U.S. position?

['Urayqat] The U.S. position is totally biased toward Israel. The Palestinian leadership is coming under tremendous U.S., Israeli, and domestic pressure. I believe the time is not right for inciting inter-Palestinian differences. It is time for Palestinian agreement on the demand for international protection. The Palestinian leadership's impasse has been going on for years. It is taking various forms and dimensions. I hope attempts to strike at the unity of our people will be unsuccessful. I hope the Palestinian leadership will be able to circumvent this impasse. We are sure the Palestinian leadership is well aware that Palestinian demands are not conditions, but legitimate demands to ensure the success of the peace process.

[Al-Masri] Do you think there is a possibility of Israel abandoning the protection of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, especially since Rabin's legal advisers counseled him not to make a hasty decision to evacuate the Hebron settlement because the court might reject the government's decision?

['Urayqat] The ball is now in Rabin's court. He must make the courageous decision. If they want peace, they cannot continue the settlements. It is either the settlements or the agreement. We call at the outset for dismantling the settlement in the heart of Hebron and the one in the heart of Nabulus, because they are elements of tension and pressure for the peace process.

[Al-Masri] What issues were on the Washington talks agenda? Is it true they were confined to negotiations on election arrangements and forming the transitional council?

['Urayqat] The discussion was not confined to what you mentioned, but included several other geographic issues concerning the Gaza-Jericho agreement. The Oslo agreement covers less than 10 percent of the occupied territories. Therefore, the Oslo agreement is one of many required steps that would cover all the occupied territories. The Washington talks center on the other issues that have not been discussed. In addition to the issue of elections and the formation of the legislative council, we placed on the agenda issues such as the redeployment of Israeli forces in the West Bank and a review of military orders applied on the Palestinian side, and then the complete transfer of authority in the occupied territories. An agreement was reached on a discussion of these issues in Washington. However, the terrorist Israeli operation in Hebron cast a shadow on the negotiations. As a result, we suspended the talks.

[Al-Masri] What use are the bilateral negotiation in Washington now when other negotiations are taking place under 'Arafat's leadership and supervision in Paris, Taba, Cairo, and other places? Don't you think the negotiations here have a formal nature, given that other secret talks have always been held behind the scene?

['Urayqat] We do not differentiate between the leadership inside the territory and the leadership outside. At the beginning of the negotiations there were unfair conditions, such as the postponement of the settlements issue, preventing the PLO from directly participating, and not allowing delegation members from Jerusalem. Now I am proud of the fact that there are no restrictions concerning membership in negotiations. The PLO is negotiating directly and is freely selecting the negotiating delegation.

[Al-Masri] Why have the links with the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral been cut, given that they have political weight in the occupied territories and they participated in long rounds of negotiations during which they gained enough experience in talking to Israeli negotiators. Moreover, they know many details because they live in the occupied territory.

['Urayqat] The delegation is not an establishment or a permanent company. It is formed in accordance with missions. These members carried out definite tasks. Before the Hebron massacre we talked about reforming the Palestinian delegation for the bilateral peace talks. Many of these names are candidate members. I assure you that the question is not linked to individuals. Nobody is allowed to prefer his own political stands in accordance with his own place in the political formula. The delegation is composed of individuals tasked with a certain mission by the PLO central command. The command is capable of deciding their continuation or otherwise.

[Al-Masri] Why the delay in forming the Palestinian establishments or naming their heads or officials?

['Urayqat] The United States leveled these accusations at us twice: once in a meeting with Christopher in Jerusalem and once in Amman. In fact, we formed establishments such as the economic council for construction and development and appointed its technical staff, which has been working for years. I don't know why, but whenever the Palestinian side attains the capability to work independently, we come under attack and criticism as though the specter of trusteeship never leaves us.

[Al-Masri] The subject of elections raises an argument between proponents and opponents who are afraid that these elections will produce elements that have no links with the PLO and are probably opposed to the settlement. Other voices believe that it is important to protect the Palestinian community through democracy. How do you see this?

['Urayqat] Elections are one of the most important guarantees for the existence of the Palestinian people, but this democracy should be real and should not be a mere facade to satisfy the authority's objectives. I am pleased to say that the first decision signed by President 'Arafat after the Oslo agreement was the formation of a committee assigned to deal with elections and local government, and that he appointed me as the head of this committee. I believe that the time is ripe for elections because elections not only give legitimacy to the continuation of the new state regime, but also give it a power that protects the Palestinian people. I think that elections should be held as soon as possible. Some people, who have vindicative aims, may raise the pretext of instability. The strategic point of view says real democracy is one of the pillars for the continuation of the Palestinian people.

[Al-Masri] What is the elections and local government committee doing to make these elections a reality? Are the elections you speak about local or legislative elections?

['Urayqat] The elections committee is comprised of brothers Faruq al-Sarraf, 'Ali al-Safarini, Rami 'Abd-al-Hadi, Muhammad 'Ishtayah, and Zahirah Kamal. This committee, which I chair, operates on several horizons, including the legal horizon, with the aim of attaining a unified law for municipal and council elections in the West Bank and laying down the basic law for council elections and the electoral system.

We have 480 population centers in 29 municipalities, 82 rural councils, and 26 camps, in addition to 347 population centers that do not have any councils. This situation has prevailed since the time of Ottoman rule, and this emphasizes the need for reorganizing the structural map of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The only three existing governorates cannot continue to work without setting up new governorates such as Tulkarm, Janin, Qalqilyah, and Bethlehem governorates. New municipalities should also be formed, and rural councils should be set up in some villages. This does not mean that development will be carried out from above, but rather should include all levels. Some 72 percent of the rural areas suffer from the absence of councils, and are run by mukhtars. This is a dangerous defect that should be tackled by setting up municipal or rural councils to carry out the required construction projects. In addition to this, the committee is working to carry out censuses, and cadres are being trained to run elections. The elections will be held on various levels; the national, legislative, local, municipal, and rural levels as well as other levels.

[Al-Masri] Will the elections be delayed because the Palestinian side is not prepared yet, or will they be held on 13 July in accordance with Oslo agreement?

['Urayqat] The holding of elections is not a decision to be made by 'Arafat or Rabin alone, it is a process that has long procedures that should be taken into consideration. We need 150 voting centers and about 6,000 supervisors and trainers on supervision. There is a need for a UN committee that represents Europe, the cosponsors of peace talks, Canada, Australia, Japan, and China to observe elections. All this requires time, and now we are in late March. This means that it is impossible to hold elections on July, but we will do all we can to hold the elections as soon as possible.

PLO Issues Statement on Land Day

LD3003214094 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Our great Palestinian people inside the homeland and abroad celebrate the glorious Land Day, as they continue relentless struggle to protect their national rights and to materialize them over the soil of the homeland to establish their independent state, with the capital Jerusalem, to ensure the return of every Palestinian to his homeland and to achieve a durable and just peace for the coming Palestinian generations over the land of Palestine, the land of peace, justice, and freedom.

On this occasion, Palestinian people confirm their indivisible unity, be it on the soil of the homeland or in the diaspora and continue the confrontation in all its forms, defending every grain of their homeland's soil, giving martyr after martyr, proving that any solution that undermines part of its rights will never pass nor will it be constant or durable.

Our people have affirmed that peace will be achieved effectively when these hotbeds are removed from the territory of their homeland in Hebron, Gaza, Nablus, Jericho, and Holy Jerusalem, the capital of the independent State of Palestine, the heart of the Palestinian homeland, and the epitome of its independence as well as the conscience of every Palestinian wherever his place is in the homeland or outside it.

[Passage omitted] Despite all the forms of suffering, oppression, and pain, the dawn of freedom is approaching. The day of the revival of Palestine with its land, people, and entity has become a reality confirmed by the world, which is waiting for the moment when it will be undoubtedly achieved on the political and geographic map in the Middle East. Our land, which has been irrigated by generous and pure blood, is living the dawn of the forthcoming independence.

The PLO reiterates its determination to continue the path consecrated by the sacrifices of Palestinian generations; this is the path of struggle and steadfastness as well as work for the just peace, which is based on international legality and its resolutions, the latest of which is resolution 904 of the UN Security Council. This provides for international protection for our people and puts a decisive end to the crimes of the Israeli army units, their settlers, and enmity and massacres against our steadfast people on the land of their homeland.

[Passage omitted] We express our salutation to our devoted martyrs on the glorious Land Day and we promise our people who are prisoners that the certain day of freedom is approaching. The great people with its whole population promises that every day is a holiday of the sacred land, that freedom and independence will be achieved, and that there will be a return to the sacred land of Palestine and holy Jerusalem to all our devoted sons who made sacrifices for it.

In the name of God the merciful and compassionate; that even the apostle and those of faith who were with him cried: When will come the help of God? Ah verily, the help of God is always near. God Almighty has said the truth. [previous paragraph Koranic verse]

APF Land Day Statement Assails 'Arafat

JN2903213194 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Statement issued by the APF on the 18th anniversary of Land Day]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Masses of our militant Palestinian people, sons of our people in the diaspora, sons of our Arab and Islamic nation, and free men of the world, 30 March 1994 is the 18th anniversary of Land Day. Our heroic Palestinian people are facing the ugliest conspiracy to liquidate their national cause through the Oslo and Cairo agreements in which 'Arafat gave in to all the Zionist-U.S. dictates and conditions, relinquished the Palestinian people's historical and national rights, and canceled all their sacrifices over 70 years.

The Land Day anniversary this year falls on the 40th day of the massacre in the Ibrahimi mosque in steadfast Hebron. This massacre highlighted the reality and essence of the Zionist-'Arafatist peace when scores of glorious martyrs fell, and hundreds were wounded. The fascist Zionist army followed this with other massacres in the same city and the other occupied territories in response to the wave of popular wrath that unfolded throughout the occupied territories and which resulted in more heroes, martyrs, and wounded.

This anniversary this year also coincides with the uprising of our militant masses in the 1948 occupied territories. This confirms the unity of our people, the unity of their land and fate, and their endless readiness for struggle to foil all the Zionist schemes to liquidate their national cause.

Masses of our people, and sons of the land: This land has been yours since time immemorial. The signature of a defeatist traitor will not constitute an edict that changes the name of the owner of the land. The land is yours, and yours is the sea, the river, the valley, and the mountain. Yours are the oranges, grapes, figs, and olives.

O Hebron, the deep wound of Palestine, the mother of martyrs, we shed tears on your doorstep but we will not give in. The pledge remains as it. O Hebron, you remain in the lap of Palestine and in the heart of the nation. The series of massacres the occupation army has carried out and is perpetrating under direct orders from Rabin—'Arafat's partner in the Washington, Oslo, Taba, Cairo agreement—have stepped up the Palestinian popular call for the resignation of 'Arafat and his deviationist clique, for halting the farce of negotiations, and for toppling the U.S.-Zionist settlement course. The massacres have also led to the stepping up of calls for the withdrawal of the negotiating delegation, for the dismantling of the settlements, for international protection for the sons of our people throughout the entire occupied territories, for their right to determine their fate on their national soil, and for toppling the deviationist clique and its main emblem, which have placed our people and cause in this dilemma. The recent agreement with the Zionist enemy has constituted a cover for the Hebron massacre and what took place before it. All this confirms the unequivocal fact that coexistence with this enemy is impossible and that the struggle against it will continue.

O people of Palestine inside and in the diaspora, o people of steadfast and mujahid Hebron: The popular situation caused by the massacre, and the militant momentum the heroic intifadah is witnessing—in spite of the comprehensive siege and systematic acts of mass killing at the hands of Rabin's army gangs, 'Arafat's partner—force the Palestinian and Arab nationalist and Islamic forces to understand the features of this stage and to work to develop struggle and jihad to higher and more effective standards on the ground. They must close ranks and adopt militant programs inside and outside the occupied territories in order to pull the rug out from under the feet of the capitulative leadership, to confront the onslaught, to restore respect to struggle and jihad, to put to use the furious popular sentiment, and to work to topple 'Arafat and his deviationist and relinquishing clique on the path of continued struggle and jihad in order to realize all objectives of the Palestinian people to attain full liberation and independence.

Our observation of Land Day and the 40th day since the martyrdom at the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque reemphasizes our adherence to the unity of the people, the unity of land, and the unity of blood that we will not relinquish no matter what the pressures, difficulties, and obstacles might be. We pledge to the souls of the martyrs—the martyrs of Land Day in the Galilee, and the martyrs of the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron—to remain faithful to their pure blood. We in the APF [Alliance of Palestinian Forces] emphasize that there will be no peace in the region without the collapse of the sin represented in the presence of Israel in the heart of our Arab and Islamic nation. We promise our people that we will carry out serious and unionist actions, burn the occupied land under the occupiers' feet, and topple the symbols of relinquishment, capitulation, and treason.

On these two anniversaries,. we ask our people to carry out the following activities:

1. In the occupied territories: To escalate the intifadah and emphasize the unity of land and people.

2. In the diaspora: To observe a general and full strike on Wednesday morning 30 March 1994 in all camps and Palestinian residential areas in Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. To stage a sit-in in front of the offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the diaspora countries on the morning of 5 April. We also call on the masses of our people to participate in the popular rally the APF will sponsor at al-Nujum Cinema in al-Yarmuk Camp, southern Damascus, at 1800 on Tuesday 5 April 1994, and to take part in all rallies that will be held in Amman, Beirut, Aleppo, Hims, and all Palestinian camps.

O relatives of noble martyrs: Your martyrs are in heaven and will be a mercy for you and the nation. They will remain in the hearts. Hail to the souls of the our martyrs in Hebron, the Galilee, and Gaza, and all martyrs of Palestine and nation. Hail to all sons of our people in the homeland and abroad. Shame and disgrace to the fascist Zionists, shame and disgrace to 'Arafat and his deviationist clique, glory to the martyrs, victory to the fighting masses. [Signed] The Alliance of Palestinian Forces

Former Negotiator Criticizes Police Arrangements

TA3003194194 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 30 Mar 94 p 2

[By Sa'id 'Ayyad]

[Text] Bethlehem, QUDS PRESS—A former Palestinian negotiator has said that the arrangements reached by Palestinian and Israeli negotiators recently and which provide for the deployment of police units comprised from Israeli, Norwegian, and Palestinian elements "are a retreat from the prevailing situation and might create a more harmful one."

In a statement to QUDS PRESS, Ghassan al-Khatib, former member of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral talks, expressed apprehension that these arrangements "might reinforce and consolidate the existing situation, which includes an unacceptable settlement presence even in the short-term."

Al-Khatib, who is a leading member of the Palestinian People's Party, believes that the task of the joint police force "will not only be to protect the security of Palestinians but also that of the settlers." He pointed out that this "will mean recognizing the reality of their presence and their right to security. This is recognition and reinforcement of a reality which everyone has admitted is the real cause for the present grave situation in Hebron."

The Palestinian negotiator said that "solving the problem on the basis of a joint Palestinian-Israeli-international police force reflects the Israeli concept of the problem. Namely, that it is a conflict between Arab residents and Jewish settlers and that the Israeli authority is a neutral party in this conflict." He said that the arrangements which are being talked about "are not a step toward ending settlement activity, but a step toward its consolidation. They do not constitute a guarantee for the security of Palestinians, but will complicate the security situation."

The former Palestinian negotiator called on the Palestinian leadership to reassess its position with regard to this issue. He said that "one must not accept any arrangement that does not include the removal of settlements, especially in Hebron." He added that the Palestinian side "must not rely on undeclared or unofficial promises because these promises seek to persuade, after which the Israeli position will return to its customary intransigence."

Gaza Mayor Urges Removal of Israeli Settlements

NC3103100094 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with Gaza Mayor Dr. Zakariya Makki, in Gaza, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Let us begin with the situation inside the occupied Arab territories, especially since yesterday marked the Land Day anniversary.

[Makki] Actually, the assassination of six leaders of the Fatah Hawks in Jabalya—and I mean assassination—was deliberate while peace talks were in progress yesterday to resume Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. This caused a very severe shock in Gaza.

The Gaza Strip is in a very sad and volatile situation. The streets are volatile and the people's feelings are inflamed. People are upset because of the loss of good young men who were assassinated without warning and without any resistance on their part. They were not going to war but to attend a ceremony when they were assassinated by special forces or Israeli military units....

[Al-Jundi, interrupting] Israel's justification that the Israeli (?forces) thought they were members of Hamas is unacceptable. We would like to note here that there is no difference between the Hamas Movement and the Fatah Movement, as both are Palestinian movements.

[Makki] This is certain. As for us, we do not distinguish at all between all the Palestinian movements. Today we are speaking about peace, but how can we speak about peace while these youths are being killed by those who say that they are negotiating with parties belonging to Fatah? The death of these youths caused severe agitation among the public and general resentment in the strip. Furthermore, the Strip is under a security siege and in a bad economic situation and people view peace as an Israel trick on the Palestinians. One hand negotiates and the other kills the Palestinian people. [words indistinct] and this is totally unacceptable.

[Al-Jundi] Do you believe that the current deterioration of the situation in the occupied Arab territories is a natural result of the delay in implementing the Gaza-Jericho accord?

[Makki] We have repeatedly said that the continued occupation of Palestinian land in Gaza, the West Bank, and Hebron is a source of friction and agitation. The Israelis must now withdraw immediately, leave the Palestinians to handle their own affairs, and allow the Palestinian police to enter the West Bank and Gaza.

These malicious settlers who do not understand any human ethics and relationships also must not remain among us in Gaza, Hebron, or elsewhere because they represent time bombs in the West Bank and Gaza, causing friction, disturbances, and problems between the Palestinians and Israelis.

If a genuine peace is sought, I believe that the settlements—and this fact has been proved—cannot exist under a real peace between the Arabs and Israelis.

[Al-Jundi] What do you think about Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's previous statements that he is not willing to evacuate the Jewish settlers from the Palestinian city of Hebron?

[Makki] We tell all the Israelis: If you truly seek peace and not world publicity—they gained a great deal in the peace process [sentence incomplete as heard]. We say to Mr. Rabin that if he sought a genuine peace, Rabin had the opportunity to remove these settlers after what they did in the Hebron massacre, which is a disgusting act for anyone.

[Al-Jundi] Can we say that there can be no peace in the occupied lands as long as there are settlements, which are time bombs?

[Makki] Most certainly, if these settlements remain on Palestinian land the word peace will be meaningless. I know these settlers well. They are charged and hateful. They hate every Arab, every Muslim, and all Palestinians, and they are armed.

Hence, we believe that to achieve a genuine peace surgery should be performed to remove all factors that hamper the process. I believe that the most important thing is for the settlements to be removed immediately and for Israel to implement the peace agreement by withdrawing its forces. Of course, we seek peace from the bottom of our hearts and this makes us wonder how can we face the public. The Palestinian people are very aware.

We talk with them [the Israelis] openly and sit with them in Taba, Cairo, Madrid, Washington, and New York while our people are being killed everywhere.

What happened in Gaza today is considered a massacre, a slaughter. The Hebron killings happened inside the mosque, but scores were also killed outside the mosque. This confirms that there are instructions issued to these military forces to immediately kill anyone carrying a stone, wearing a mask, or belonging to this or that organization.

Report on Al-Quds Radio Station, Activities

JN3003172394 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 29 Mar-4 Apr 94 p 11

[Report by 'Abir Fu'ad: "AL-SABIL Visits Al-Quds Radio in Damascus"]

[Excerpts] For years, we have been hearing Al-Quds Radio. It carries a militant voice that we have missed very much, especially these days when we are almost suffocated by the dust of [the Arab-Israeli] talks, whose only objective is to destroy our cause and terminate our existence. This radio conveys to us the daily heroic actions of our kinsfolk in Palestine, always accompanied by songs of revolution and jihad.

It is unlike the other Arab radios filling the airwaves. It has been distinctly successful in attracting listeners of other radios inside and outside the occupied territories. Having won keen and regular listeners, the radio dedicated all its resources to reporting on and following Palestinian events anywhere at anytime.

When I arrived in Damascus, I immediately began to look for the radio building. Few people were familiar with the place. Therefore, it took me some time before I managed to arrive at the radio building. It was not a big surprise to me when I found nothing but a small, old four-story building, the first story of which is occupied by the radio station. This building is surrounded by shops and other residential buildings. The only thing that distinguishes it from other buildings is an armed guard standing at its gate. I was not surprised because I knew that the radio officials wanted to keep its location secret so that it would not become an easy target for attacks or acts of sabotage.

Since its establishment, this radio has continued its role of invigorating our Palestinian people and their struggle against their enemies, both overt and covert, including those who hide their treachery and treason under guises of political wisdom.

Al-Quds Radio has managed to worry and annoy Israel, which was prompted jam it despite the high costs, which has amounted to millions of dollars. For this purpose, Israel used jamming devices at the building of the Ramallah radio, something Israel has not done against any other Arab radio.

Abu-Shadi [Fadl Shururu], director general of the al-Quds Radio, says: Al-Quds Radio began its experimental transmission in 1987, and officially announced its name on 1 January 1988, when it began to identify itself as: "Al-Quds, the Palestinian Arab Radio on the Road to Liberation of Land and Man." Only 20 days after the beginning of its official transmission, the Zionists began to jam the radio on the recommendation of terrorist Mike Gurdus, [Israeli radio's] specialist in monitoring Arab radios in the Middle East.

Not long after the blessed intifadah broke out, Al-Quds Radio began broadcasting to become one of the continuous factors of incitement for our kinsfolk to continue struggle and steadfastness in face of the Zionist enemy.

The radio broadcasts statements issued by Palestinian resistance factions, which call for strikes and demonstrations. It also transmits patriotic songs and follows Palestinian developments and broadcasts these developments as soon as the necessary information is available. All this explain the enemy's costly attempt to jam the radio.

In one occasion, Al-Quds Radio was forced to make 56 frequency changes to evade the Zionist jamming. The continuation of these jamming attempts by the enemy gave the workers of the radio lots of experience in changing frequencies quickly—in less than two minutes. It is noteworthy that the radio broadcasts on three waves: the medium, short, and FM waves.

The radio's transmission begins at 0900 and lasts until 2000. Hence, the question is raised: If the radio shoulders the responsibility of this important media role to serve our people and their cause, are the limited transmission hours enough to realize this objective?

Abu-Shadi says: We wish that we could continue transmitting 24 hours a day because we need to maintain contacts with our people, but this requires huge material capabilities that are not available at present. In fact, some large quarters are prepared to buy our radio on the condition they would turn it into one of their media horns that markets their ideas and policies.

The small size of the place is another obstacle to the development and growth of the radio. As I said before, the radio is in one floor of a building in which all radio departments, including the studios, are present.

In the editorial room, which is no more than 3 by 4 square meters, nearly eight people sit at a rectangular table to edit news and write reports. You can see the editor of the Russian newscast beside the editor of the Hebrew newscast, and beside them sits the editor of the Arabic newscast. The constraints of the place may cause some problems here or there, but of course does not prevent the continuation of work in constant force and enthusiasm. [passage omitted]

The radio also seeks to effect communication with non-Arab communities. For, it airs programs targeting Jewish immigrants in Palestine. The radio airs its programs in seven languages, in addition to Arabic. These languages are the following: Hebrew, Russian, French, Italian, English, Spanish, and Romanian. As a matter of fact, the radio has not thus far received any real feedback from target listeners on these programs. But, the radio director is almost certain that the radio programs are also listened to by Jews in Palestine. The very reasons that prompt the Palestinians of the occupied territories to listen to this radio's programs are bound to prompt Jews to do so, the radio director argues.

Having debated with Abu-Shadi the media role being played by Palestinian factions, I wanted to ask him about the clearly stepped-up Islamic sentiments enshrined in the programs aired by this radio, particularly since the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], which is managing this radio station, has not been known as a front that promotes Islamic sensibilities. When I asked him this question, he was disturbed. He retorted, saying: The fact that the radio was launched by the PFLP-GC does not mean that it belongs to the PFLP-GC. Al-Quds Radio is the radio of the Palestinian masses inside and outside the occupied territories. It is the radio of those denied the chance to make their voices heard. It is not affiliated with any Palestinian resistance faction. At any rate, I hope that we will someday become Muslims in deed, and not only in word, Abu-Shadi added.

Fast reporting is an equally important factor that has contributed to the radio's wide popularity. The radio is quick to report on news stories. By the way, the radio has listeners in various parts of the Arab homeland, as well as Europe. Abu-Shadi adds: Fast reporting, and accuracy in broadcasting developments in the occupied territories have enhanced the radio's reputation, and allowed it to increase the number of its listeners. These factors have also given rise to myths about the radio. When the radio first began transmission, there were numerous guesses as to where it was transmitting from. The radio was reported to have been transmitting from a secret place in Jerusalem. In an opinion poll conducted in London last year, Al-Quds Radio came ahead of both the BBC Arabic Service and Monte Carlo Radio in terms of preference by listeners.

To obtain its news stories, the radio depends on a network of correspondents inside the occupied territories. Abu-Shadi believes that it is enough for a Palestinian to be a true patriot enjoying a high sense of responsibility toward his cause and people to qualify as a correspondent for the Al-Quds Radio. Zionist troops once apprehended several correspondents of the radio in Gaza, Rafah, and Nabulus. But, these correspondents had already trained others to do their job and accomplish news assignments. Correspondents use fax machines to send their news reports to the radio in Damascus. The radio also has subscriptions with several international news agencies; and this enables the radio to cover Arab and international developments. Nonetheless, the radio airs news agency-datelined Palestinian news stories only after it receives a confirmation of these stories from its correspondents in the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

[Fu'ad] Since the convocation of the Madrid conference, and even before that, the Al-Quds Radio has been opposed to the peace process. What will happen to your radio if Syria concludes a peace treaty with Israel?

[Shururu] We at Al-Quds Radio still believe that what is being done is capitulation, rather than peace. We mean what we say. How can we expect the achievement of peace at a time when our people are still displaced, and when their objectives are yet to be achieved? If the Israelis give the Arabs back the Golan and southern Lebanon, and deny me the right to regain my land and national soil, there will be no peace. As long as there is a good reason for Palestinian children to continue to carry stones, there is no room for any talk of peace. If and when the Syrian leadership signs a peace agreement with Israel, providing for a recognition of Israel, something which I cannot believe even if I were to see it with my own eyes, then we can discuss this development. In this regard, I would like to emphasize that Al-Quds Radio is not the only weapon in the hands of our people. It is an instigator. Our people's struggle will not come to a halt with any cessation in the radio's transmission.

[Fu'ad] Then, is it possible that Al-Quds Radio will halt its transmission?

[Shururu, smiling] If this were to be forced on us, there is nothing we can do to ward off such a development.

[Fu'ad] This is Al-Quds Radio, the Palestinian Arab radio along the path of liberating land and man. It has continued to exemplify a mature media perspective. We hope that many of our Arab radio stations will emulate Al-Quds Radio. We acknowledge that the example this radio has provided is not flawless, for there is always room for improvement in the radio's performance.

We salute Al-Quds Radio and its employees.

Algeria

Presidential Statement on Dialogue Process

LD3003233694 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Full text of statement by presidential spokesman Mr. Mihoubi to national media; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] At the presidency, Mr. Mihoubi met the national media and read out a statement that revealed the framework of the national dialogue proceedings with parties, associations, and personalities since its resumption on 9 March. The full text of the presidential spokesman's statement follows:

The head of state has always stressed, in his statements to the nation, his commitment to implement all political, economic, social, and security targets contained in the platform the National Dialogue Commission endorsed.

In this framework, a presidential statement on 18 March 1994 was announced on the head of state's intentions to resume political dialogue and received for that reason national figures, political parties, economic and social associations.

Accordingly, as of 19 March and until now, the head of state held discussions during the first phase with national personalities and representatives of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, Party of Algerian Renewal, Ennahda, Ettahadi movement, National Liberation Front [FLN], Hamas, as well as representatives of the following social and economic organizations: National Organization of War Veterans, General Union of Algerian Workers, National Union of Framers, National Association of Public Administration Cadres, National Organization of Martyrs' Sons, National Union of Public Contractors, confederation of association of managers of local public enterprises, Confereation of Algeruab employers, genreal confederation of Algerian economic operators, Union of Algerian Students, retired staff of the National People's Army and Youth and women's associations.

During all those meetings, the head of state clarified and specified what he meant by serious dialogue—without excluding anyone—within the framework of respecting the constitution. It is a constructive framework capable of bringing together all Algerians concerned about the country's security and interest of its people. The head of state stressed that serious dialogue was such that dealt with current problems facing the nation. They were urgent problems that required urgent and quick solutions.

The head of state also said dialogue that did not exclude anyone and respected the constitution was one that accepted differences in opinion. However, it was on the condition that these opinions fell within the framework of respecting the constitution, that principal law which formed the nation's common denominator, and was the primary guarantee for the promotion of democracy.

Accordingly, respect for the constitution rules out all dialogue with all those who violate it by resorting to violence. The head of state added that terrorism, violence, and the attempt to sabotage the country was a matter that necessitated mobilizing all nationalists to eradicate these phenomena by all means and methods provided by the law and the country's sovereignty. He said that the state, on its part, was determined to shoulder all its responsibilities to confront this violence and to firmly and continuously fight it. But he added that the security solution alone was not sufficient.

It is true. Just as it emerged in the platform endorsed by the national conference, security work must be consolidated by political action. These culmulative actions are aimed at tearing out the roots of violence forever from our society.

The president took this opportunity to provide clarifications on the contacts he carried out with the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. In this context, the head of state reminded that many parties had proposed taking appeasing measures to put a stop to the phenomenon of violence throughout the dialogue process by the National Dialogue Commission. At the same time, the leaders of that suspended movement expressed their readiness to work towards putting a stop to violence and restoring calm.

Mr. Lamine Zeroual, who then met personally with FIS officials in his capacity as national defense minister, got their commitment to work in that direction. Appeasing measures were taken by the government, including the release of two FIS personalities with the agreement of the other detained leaders. Those two personalities were given a mandate by their colleagues to carry out the commitments they made to put a stop to terrorism and for the return of calm and security.

These commitments have not yet been implemented until our present day. But the head of state insisted on clarifying that the national values and constitutional principles are unnegotiable, just as defending the country's unity, security, and citizens were. During these talks, the head of state reminded those he spoke to that during the transitional period, he would remain attentive to epitomize all the aims contained in the platform endorsed by the national conference. He added that this result would enable the existence of necessary conditions for the return to elections, which was everyone's aim.

The head of state expressed his hopes that the dialogue would allow the entwining of efforts and collective energy to epitomize all these aims. The meetings, which the head of state convened during the last two weeks, recorded vast feelings on the dangerous state the country was going through. Those he spoke to said they were prepared to promote this dialogue to serve the nation's higher interests. Thank you. [end recording]

National Papers Resume After 2-Day Strike

LD2803211894 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Excerpt] After a two-day strike, the national press has resumed publication. It is worth recalling that the national press has staged a strike against the terrorist acts which rock the country daily. [passage omitted]

Wrapup of Reports on Killings, Arrests

15 'Terrorists' Arrested 28 Mar

LD3003211794 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] A statement by the security services said that six people, including two members from the security forces, were assassinated between Sunday and Tuesday in various parts of the country.

It said that the security forces eliminated three terrorists on Tuesday and arrested 15 others on Monday.

Paper Views Latest Events

PM3103110394 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 Mar 94 p 1

[Unattributed report:"Two Algerian Female Students Assassinated Because of Veil Issue"]

[Text] London, Algiers, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, news agencies—Two Algerian gunmen have assassinated two Algerian female students while were standing at a bus stop in Boumerdes province near the Algerian capital.

The incident occurred the day before yesterday after noon near the two students' Boudouaou Secondary School. One of the two girls was killed instantly. Her name is Rozeika Miloud Jammi (18). The second, Neima Kar Ali (19), died of her wounds in the hospital. The two gunmen escaped on a motorcycle.

The security services did not say whether or not the two students who were killed at the bus stop, where they were waiting to return to their home after the end of school, were wearing a veil. With this incident the number of female students killed in attacks attributed to members of the armed groups who threatened women who refuse to wear a veil has risen to three.

The Algerian security services have also announced that Sadouki Sadouk (53), regional director of the Algerian Red Crescent in the Sidi Rash [as transliterated], was killed in his home last Monday by two gunmen.

Reports in the Algerian capital have said that the day before yesterday the special court in the capital passed—in absentia—12 death sentences on a group of gunmen on charges of harming state security and forming armed groups.

The group comprises 27 people, 16 of whom attended the trial. Six of these 16 were acquitted. One person was sentenced to seven years in prison, and nine to three years in prison. The group is accused of setting up an ambush in July 1993 for a police patrol in which three members of the patrol were killed and five abducted.

The Algerian Oran special court yesterday sentenced to death two gunmen for killing three policemen seven months ago. The two policemen are Lazrak Ben Sidi Ahmed and Mohamed Hemidi.

In Paris, Said Saadi, secretary general of the Rally for Culture and Democracy in Algeria, urged armed resistance against violence in Algeria. He said that "armed groups and self-defense cells" have been formed in that country. Saadi said in his opposition party's name in an interview with the French newspaper LE FIGARO yesterday that, as a result of the "state's importance" in the face of violence, society now understands that it has to run its own affairs, even at the security level. He also stressed that "a civil war has been imposed on society and we must confront it."

Egypt

Government Delegation Leaves for Oman

TA2803195094 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Interview with Yusuf Bin-'Abdallah Bin-'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, by unidentified correspondent in Cairo; date not given—recorded passages in Arabic processed from Hebrew subtitles]

[Text] This evening for the first time ever, an Israeli delegation left for Oman in the Persian Gulf. The delegation is headed by Shlomo Gur, political adviser to the deputy foreign minister. He is accompanied by the technical team which prepares for Israel's participation in the multinational conference on water issues.

In an exclusive interview with MABAT, Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs, said in Cairo that there is nothing wrong with inviting Israeli representatives to his country:

[Begin recording] [Bin-'Alawi] Israel has been attending all the multinational talks, whether they were held in Arab countries or in non-Arab countries. That is why one cannot give up on Israel's participation in such a conference. Israel's presence at the water conference does not affect the importance of the goal which, we hope, would serve the best interests of the Arab nation.

[Correspondent] What do you think about solving the Palestinian and Syrian water problem with countries such as Turkey and Israel?

[Bin-'Alawi] The issue must be studied and discussed by all the countries who will enjoy the arrangement, and those in which territory the water sources are, where the rivers run. [end recording]

Minister Optimistic About Confronting 'Terrorists'

NC3103080194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 31 Mar (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has voiced optimism over developments in the overall confrontation of terrorists in view of the painful blows recently dealt by the security agencies to the terrorist organizations.

In an interview with today's AL-JUMHURIYAH, al-Alfi noted that public opinion has exposed the terrorists for what they really are—outlaws who have nothing to do with religion and whose goal is to terrorize the people, spread panic, and disrupt stability. Consequently, he added, the public now sympathizes with the state in its efforts to eliminate terrorism.

Minister al-Alfi pointed out that through cooperation with Arab and Asian states, Egypt has repatriated 29 fugitives from abroad. More is to come. He noted that coordination is now under way among all the ministries and competent authorities as part of the overall confrontation. He stressed that everybody is in the same boat in the face of terrorism.

The interior minister urged the public to report any deviation or shortcomings. He said that corruption is as serious as terrorism, because they are two sides of the same coin and both must be confronted.

Al-Alfi described the terrorists as outlaws who promote ideas that incite the overthrow of the regime by force; these are the same ideas that they use to penetrate the youth's minds. He emphasized that contacts exist among the various terrorist organizations, as evidenced by the terrorists' confessions. Their objective, he added, is to destabilize the regime and embarrass the government. Toward that end, they came up with new ideas, such as striking at tourist and economic installations, he added.

The minister noted that cooperation exists among the Arab interior ministers to confront the misleading ideologies as well as the groups preaching such ideologies, because most of the Arab states have started to realize the gravity of the ideas of these gangs, which have become a threat to their regimes. These groups use the same slogans, training methods, and even the same instructors, he added. Proof of this is that bombs used in Tunis, for instance, were made up of the same substances and components as those used in Egypt, he added.

Al-Alfi expressed his belief that brainwashing of those who join these organizations explains why particular individuals carry out suicide operations. He noted that these organizations receive continuing and considerable financial support. He said that $15,000 and 20,000 pounds were seized from one of these terrorist groups.

Asked about the possibility of initiating a dialogue with these groups, al-Alfi asked: With whom will we hold a dialogue? With a group of killers who use arms to promote ideological and religious terrorism? He pointed out that holding a dialogue with these groups would mean that their Islam is true and ours is false.

Al-Alfi pointed out that Egypt is a state of institutions and has its laws and Constitution. He said dialogue can be held with legal and recognized organizations in accordance with the Constitution. Otherwise, the result would be chaos and confusion. If anyone wants to be active he can join any legal organization. He said: Those in charge of security want a national dialogue to inform them of every legitimate view through the constitutionally acknowledged organizations, noting that there should be a bold comprehensive confrontation of terrorism for the sake of Egypt.

Al-Alfi stressed that arms licenses must be restricted to a minimum and be in accordance with the law. He said there should be ample justification for carrying arms so as to prevent arms from reaching terrorists. He noted that most arms being used by terrorists are either brought in from abroad or left over from the wars in Sinai. He noted that depots housing tons of TNT were seized because there are some nomads who collect arms and explosives from private depots to sell to anyone who pays.

On the role of art in the confrontation of terrorism, al-Alfi stressed that art plays a major and important role because it influences the literate and illiterate masses through a quick and facile presentation of facts.

Judicial Cooperation Accord Signed With Pakistan

NC3003063194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Egypt and Pakistan signed a judicial cooperation agreement today. The agreement provides for extraditing criminals and terrorists and individuals implicated in illegal dealing in weapons and explosives. Justice Minister Counselor Faruq Sayf-al-Nasr and his Pakistani counterpart Iqbal Haidar signed the agreement.

Sayf-al-Nasr affirmed that Pakistan, like all other Islamic states, condemns terrorism in every form. He noted that the agreement they initialed aims to fight crime and guarantee respect for human rights. The final signing will take place in Islamabad soon.

The Pakistani justice minister commended the Justice Ministry's efforts to conclude the agreement. He noted that the Pakistani Government is willing to enforce its articles as of today if the Egyptian Government can specify the names of terrorists who have escaped to Pakistan so that they can be handed over like any other criminal.

Final Signing in 10 Days

NC3003145094 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has said that the security services have successfully brought back 29 wanted terrorists from abroad. Egypt and Pakistan are fully cooperating and exchanging information in this regard, al-Alfi said. An agreement between Egypt and Pakistan on the extradition of criminals and terrorists will be signed in Islamabad in 10 days, al-Alfi noted.

The interior minister said that the state welcomes any terrorist who listens to reason and it promises to protect repenting terrorists and their families. He called on the extremists to return to the true path of God, for their sake and that of their country.

Paper Questions Clinton's Remarks on Jerusalem

NC3003182694 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 24 Mar 94 p 4

[From the "Foreign Policy" column by Muhammad 'Abdallah: "Who Is Saving Who"]

[Text] U.S. President Clinton met with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the White House 10 days ago to discuss the Middle East peace process. At the time, Clinton was up to his ears in the "Whitewater" scandal, while Rabin was up to his ears in the scandalous massacre at the al-Ibrahimi mosque. Both Clinton and Rabin were looking for ways to rescue them from their scandal or crisis.

Rabin was seeking to get from Clinton something to consolidate the Israeli position—to disregard the massacre and resume the peace talks. Perhaps the Israeli prime minister was looking for some kind of a position on the part of the United States that could calm down the Israeli right after the "punitive" measures that his government had taken against the extremist rightists, including the outlawing of the Kakh and Kahana Hay movements, the expulsion of leading Jewish extremists from Hebron, and the disarming of some others.

Likewise, it seems that Clinton was seeking to get moral support from Rabin in the face of the tremendous media campaign against him and his wife, in which the Jewish-owned media organs are naturally taking part. The U.S. President saw in this an opportunity to appease these parties by adopting a strong position in favor of Rabin and Israel. On the eve of his talks with Rabin, the U.S. President stood up to say that he supported Jerusalem as the unified capital of Israel—meaning that East Jerusalem will not be the capital of the coming State of Palestine, which is still on the far horizon.

This is the way politics sometimes is when someone is in a weak position; and both men were in such a position. That is why the United States, in various ways, backed off from Clinton's remarks; and Rabin had to wait for some time before the Palestinians agreed to receive his men in Tunis.

U.S. Abstention on UN Resolution 904 Noted

NC3003143094 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 24 Mar 94 p 9

[Article by Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad: "The Significance of Washington's Reservations on Resolution 904"]

[Excerpts] The stand taken by Madeleine Albright, U.S. delegate to the UN, on UN Security Council [UNSC] Resolution 904, which was passed on Friday and which condemns the Hebron massacre, is worthy of our attention for more than one reason. The United States abstained on two points: The definition of the occupied territories as Palestinian (paragraph 2) and the statement that these territories include part of Jerusalem (paragraph 6). Washington's argument is that these territories are still subject to negotiations and consequently, they cannot be considered as Palestinian before the negotiations are over. This is because the negotiations may result in giving them to Israel.

Washington's position deserves deep thought because it sheds light on developments that have escaped our attention regarding what is being planned for the future final resolution of the Palestinian issue. Washington's position implies that everything on which there is no agreement between the Palestinians and Israelis must be left open regardless of the existing Security Council resolutions, including Resolution 242, which is the basis of negotiations. The preamble of Resolution 242 notes the "inadmissibility of seizing others' territories by force." Since Israel is occupying the land, this means that the United States, a cosponsor of the negotiation process, accepts the Israeli interpretation on any issue where there is no Palestinian-Israeli agreement, even if this is contrary to the opinion of the entire world community and the other Security Council members. Based on this logic, the Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territories are not necessarily illegal and thus they do not necessarily need to be removed. Therefore, their presence is not necessarily against the law. [passage omitted]

The fact is that it would have been difficult for the Clinton Administration to accept Israel's position that Jerusalem is the unified and eternal capital of Israel had it acknowledged that all the occupied territories in Palestine are Palestinian, because East Jerusalem is occupied land and is in fact Palestinian. Hence, it is clear that Washington's positions on the Palestinian territories and even Clinton's recent remarks on Jerusalem were not just a slip, but have a basis and are consistent. The United States, like Israel, proceeds from the premise that the occupied territories must not be organically linked to the Palestinians and that their status must remain "open." This is because to acknowledge in advance that the land is Palestinian implies questioning the legitimacy of Israel's existence in the first place and that Israel is a lawful state (etat de droit) [preceding words in French as published]. Thus, in order for the Hebrew state to have irreversible legitimacy it is necessary from the start not to acknowledge that the territory of Palestine has a primarily Palestinian-Arab identity.

The U.S. position on Resolution 904 shows the kind of argument that Israel is expected to use in the final stage of negotiations. The prevailing thought is that the Gaza-Jericho First formula is the first stage of a Palestinian entity that is ultimately expected to include most, if not all, of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967. It is true that Israel has always emphasized that it will not change its stand that Jerusalem is its eternal capital. It is also true that it has continued to build settlements relentlessly. But the parties' continued commitment to Resolution 242 was construed to mean that "exchanging land for peace" could apply in the end to all fronts, including the Palestinian front.

But the U.S. vote on Resolution 904 now shows that this premise may not be true and that the "interim period", scheduled to last for five years at least, is meant to delay a decision on the Palestinian issue until the other aspects of the conflict are settled. The purpose of this is to separate the Palestinian issue from the other fronts so that Israel can impose its views in full.

The question we need to ask in this regard is: Why is the United States standing firmly against the intervention of the UN and the world community in the administration of the occupied Arab territories even after the occurrence of such appalling crimes as the Hebron massacre? In the meantime, the United States has just as firmly backed intervention in other tense conflicts such as Somalia, Bosnia, etc. Why presume from the start that Israel's "right" to administer the occupied territories until it gets a peace formula it considers acceptable is an "absolute" right? [passage omitted]

Sudan

Foreign Minister on Hala'ib Conflict, Egypt

PM2903110194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Mar 94 pp 1, 4

[Interview with Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Abu-Husayn] First of all, who, in your view, is responsible for the eruption of Egyptian-Sudanese differences, especially after the start of the dialogue between the two sides?

[Abu-Salih] Sudan has done nothing wrong against Egypt and it will not sacrifice its relations with Egypt, which should be special. I have come to Egypt six times to tackle the Hala'ib triangle dispute. The second round should have been held in Khartoum. It was postponed several times by the Egyptian side. More than once we appealed to [Egyptian Foreign] Minister 'Amr Musa to make the visit urgently so that we could carry out the task entrusted to us by Presidents Husni Mubarak and 'Umar al-Bashir at the time of the African summit in Cairo last summer. I believe that dialogue and meetings are essential for the settlement of the Hala'ib dispute, which, we believe, is a constant source of provocation and tension between the two countries. As far as we are concerned, postponement of the dialogue is unacceptable because it means continuation of the present situation.

[Abu-Husayn] But Minister 'Amr Musa said more than once that the reason for the postponement was the fact that he was too busy at home and abroad.

[Abu-Salih] I believe that Cairo and Khartoum are no more than two hours apart. Is it conceivable that visits to countries other than Sudan are more important than the current tense situation between the two countries? We insist on urgent dialogue because relations should not remain as they are for a long time. We believe that the present Egyptian Government is stronger than previous governments and more serious about establishing good relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples. To us, that is a strategic objective and neither of us should lose sight of it.

We will never forget Egypt's support for us on the question of Sudan's territorial integrity and against partition of Sudan, but we want to cooperate and coordinate and we want to move forward and settle any dispute which might undermine the situation in Sudan. We see the Hala'ib problem as much too small a problem to be a major obstacle in the way of special relations between the two countries.

[Abu-Husayn] Has a date been set for Minister 'Amr Musa to visit Khartoum?

[Abu-Salih] Regrettably, no date has been set yet. I have talked to him about everything I have said regarding ties between the two countries, their importance, the need to end this abnormal situation, and the need to move on to a better situation in the interest of both countries, particularly as there is much talk these days about Arab solidarity. The question is how is that to be achieved. There are differences between one state and its neighbor. That is unacceptable in a world which does not respect small entities. There must be cohesion and solidarity for the present and the future.

[Abu-Husayn] But how is that going to apply to your relations with Egypt after the Sudanese president's appointment of a governor for the Hala'ib triangle?

[Abu-Salih] If we just looked at what both the Egyptian and Sudanese sides are doing in Hala'ib, the problem would never be solved because it is disputed territory and, in the present situation, each side can do what it likes. That is why the dispute must be settled.

[Abu-Husayn] Pardon me, but Egypt emphasizes that Hala'ib is Egyptian and Sudan says it would never forfeit it. So, how is the dialogue to be resumed?

[Abu-Salih] Dialogue is the only way of creating a positive atmosphere. We would never forfeit the Hala'ib triangle by force or through the imposition of a fait accompli. We could possibly give it to Egypt through cordial means and provided we agree and the dialogue begins on the basis of mediation, international arbitration, or any sensible solution agreed upon by the two sides.

[Abu-Husayn] It seems that Sudan's declaration that Hala'ib is Sudanese was sufficient reason for Egypt to lose interest in dialogue.

[Abu-Salih] And Egypt's creation of electoral constituencies is also unacceptable to us. We had previously agreed to stop such practices. That Egyptian measure actually was sufficient proof that Hala'ib is Sudanese. Why were these constituencies not created in Hala'ib dozens of years ago? Why now? That is the question. We do not wish to discuss that in the media. We must arrive at practical solutions through dialogue. With goodwill, the dispute can be settled.

[Abu-Husayn] What do you think of the Sudanese media claim that President Mubarak secretly visited Nairobi and met with John Garang?

[Abu-Salih] That is ridiculous. I do not believe that President Mubarak did such a thing. No one in the Sudanese Government has accused or would ever accuse him of doing that. That was just a report which confused the Egyptian press. The Sudanese press reported that Mubarak al-Fadil, not President Mubarak, met with Garang. So, we should not pay any attention to such reports. The Sudanese media are tired of me going after them for the reports they publish because I always investigate any incident which might be harmful to our relations with any state. You now have the correction to the report carried by the Sudanese media.

[Abu-Husayn] Have you requested Arab League intervention in the war in southern Sudan?

[Abu-Salih] Sudan has submitted a memorandum, not seeking mediation or intervention but informing the Arab League of what is going on in southern Sudan and of the attempts to partition Sudan and undermine its territorial integrity, particularly as the Arab League has for over a year been contemplating calling for pan-Arab security integration. We consider Sudan to be part of that security. We emphasize that we will never allow the rebels and gunmen to fulfill their demands and self-determination because that constitutes an open call for the partition of Sudan, which is impossible. The Sudanese Army would never allow that. The Army is doing its duty against the rebels to promote stability and is giving them the punishment they deserve. Despite that, we have offered dialogue and negotiations to arrive at a comprehensive and just peaceful solution that would end the war, which is hurting everyone. The negotiations began on 17 March. The next round will be in May. The aim is to solve the problem on the basis of the Sudanese Government's program on the distribution of power and development but within the framework of a united Sudan, with exemption from application of the Islamic Shar'iah.

Spokesman Holds News Conference on Peace Talks

EA2803194294 Khartoum SUNA in English 1710 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 28 Mar (SUNA)—The minister at the Federal Government Chamber and spokesman of the government's delegation to peace talks, Dr. Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, announced that meetings of the technical committees for implementing the agreement signed for supplying relief to war-hit areas will be started in Nairobi on Thursday [31 March]. Dr. Muhammad said at a press conference he held here on Monday that the technical committee, which includes representatives from all sides, will discuss issues related to the agreement, such as safe ways and other topics.

He went on to say that the signing of the relief transport agreement does not mean stopping shooting of fire between the disputing sides, but aims at delivering relief materials to the war-hit population. Indicating that the Sudanese Government did not use food as weapon in the ravaging war in southern Sudan [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Dr. Muhammad pointed out that the success of the relief agreement is linked to many factors, among them were liberation of the outlaws' movement from domination of the external countries and the so-called northern opposition, adding that goals of the so-called national alliance aimed at toppling the existing government, not restoring peace in southern Sudan. [passage omitted]

He indicated that attitudes of the outlaws' movement has continuously been changed during the negotiation years, particularly by the mainstream faction, John Garang's group, where it had requested federalism in the Abuja One peace talks, confederalism in the Abuja Two peace talks and self-determination in the Nairobi talks.

He asserted the government's readiness to continue the next talks with the rebels' movement in Nairobi on 16 May, pointing out that foreign hands want to exploit the southern Sudan problem by speaking on human rights violations in the south and the Islamic shari'ah.

He announced finally Sudan's welcoming to the Arab League's condemnation of the foreign plots aimed at harming Sudan's unity.

Commentary on Arab League's Position Against 'Plots'

EA2903131094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The Arab League Council's unanimous support for Sudan's stand against foreign plots aimed at separating the south and fragmenting the country's territorial integrity reflects the spirit of solidarity, fraternity, and unity which ought to prevail in the Arab nation. This spirit saw in these threats to an Afro-Arab country not only a danger to this state's security and territorial integrity, but also a danger to the security, future, and stability of the Arab region as a whole. The decision, adopted during the 101st session which just met in Cairo, expressed great concern about the foreign plots aimed at separating the south and the support for the secessionist rebels, as well as the open incitement of the rebels to demand self-determination as a pretext to divide a sovereign state. The Arab states' concern arises from a recognition of the danger of breaking up a state which is a member of the Arab League, not only for the effect such secession would have on the state concerned, but also for the encouragement this gives other separatist movements. This would fragment Arab unity and provide room for foreign interference in the internal affairs of other states. [passage omitted]

The current obstacles to the march of peace in Sudan will not affect the determination of its sons and will not thwart their efforts. Indeed, these obstacles will add strength to their strength, through the unanimity of all Arab states to work to preserve the territorial integrity of Sudan and to confront any threat to it. All this was confirmed by the speeches of the foreign ministers of Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Egypt, Syria, Yemen, Jordan, Morocco, and Iraq at the Arab League session. They all stressed that Sudan's territorial integrity and security were that of the entire Arab nation and any threat to this integrity and security was a threat to all Arab states. [passage omitted]

As Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih has confirmed, the government and people of Sudan are working with determination and sincerity to find a peaceful solution to the southern problem based on just and comprehensive acceptable to all parties and have responded to all the initiatives of brothers and friends. These initiatives, however, will not bear fruit unless there is an end to the interference by some states and circles in Sudan's internal affairs, as well as their plotting to separate the south. Sudan is well able to resist these plots, supported as it is by the solidarity of the Arab states and other brothers and friends. Success comes from God.

'Fallacies' Viewed in U.S. Official's Article

JN3003132094 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 24 Mar 94 p 7

["Sidelines" column: "Double Containment: Obvious U.S. Fallacies" by Sabri Hammadi]

[Text] The article U.S. national security adviser Anthony Lake wrote for FOREIGN AFFAIRS magazine contains many obvious political deceptions and fallacies. It is easy for any observer to diagnose, refute, and expose their suspect aims. This article is a modest attempt in that direction.

After saying that "the strategy and principles of U.S. policy in the Gulf are based on establishing a balance of forces in the region with the aim of protecting U.S.interests," U.S. national security adviser Lake speaks about an endeavor by the U.S. Administration and its regional allies to maintain the balance in the region without Iraq and Iran. He believes several factors that did not exist before have helped the U.S. Administration pursue this policy. He then speaks about "the removal of the strategic consideration" from U.S. calculations with the end of Cold War and says: "The strategic importance of both Iraq and Iran has dropped dramatically"!

More than that, the U.S. national security adviser goes on to say: "The general trend in the area is positive and Washington enjoys the support of basic forces in it, such as Egypt, 'Israel,' Turkey, and Saudi Arabia." He adds that progress in the "peace" process has contributed toward strengthening the U.S. position in the Arab World!

It is very clear that Anthony Lake is expressing wishes rather than stating facts and realities. He says things the way he and his administration like to see them, not as they are in reality.

The U.S. Administration's endeavor to maintain a balance in the region with the cooperation of its regional allies without Iraq is a complete failure. What the region has witnessed over the past three years has clearly shown it is suffering from a flaw in the balance of power due to the absence of Iraqi power. This flaw from which the region is suffering has expressed itself in more than one occasion and event: Foremost was Iran's occupation of the UAE island of Abu Musa and Saudi Arabia's attack on the Qatari post of al-Khufus, in addition to other tangible manifestations.

The U.S. national security adviser tells his biggest lie when he claims that "the general trend in the region is positive." The fact that neither he nor his master Clinton can ignore is that the general trend in the region is neither positive nor in the interest of the United States; in fact, it is hostile to it.

Therefore, when he says that "Washington enjoys the support of basic forces in the region such as Egypt, 'Israel,' Turkey, and Saudi Arabia" he is playing with words and not telling the whole truth. These states enjoy clear and effective U.S. political, financial, and military support. In fact, some of them have become a burden to the United States because of their financial needs and political and security problems!

And when he speaks about "progress in the peace process," which has helped strengthen their position in the Arab World, he is only deceiving himself, and perhaps his administration, by such talk. For there has been no real progress so far in what he terms "the peace process." And, in addition to U.S. partiality toward the Zionist entity, a partiality preventing the achievement of any progress, an Arab conviction is growing day after day that the Arab regimes taking part in the "peace process" have not received anything for their involvement from "Israel" or the U.S. Administration.

The great fallacy of the U.S. national security adviser is his statement that "the strategic importance of both Iraq and Iran has dropped dramatically," because political and strategic facts cannot be changed or wished away. Nobody can create political or strategic facts that do not exist. If Iraq's strategic importance has "dropped," as he claims, has the strategic importance of any Gulf state, of limited resources and capabilities, increased even if it is an ally of the United States?!

And, when Lake says "it is not strange to renew the sanctions on Iraq every 60 days without a debate" he is talking about the past rather than the present or future. What happened during the periodic review of the blockade on Iraq a few days ago confirms that what the U.S. national security adviser says is absolutely not true. There were debates and differences over the issuance of a statement renewing the blockade. Chinese, Russian, and French viewpoints conflicted with the viewpoint of the United States concerning the extension decision. In fact, it was clear that a split had occurred in the Security Council over the renewal of the blockade on Iraq.

It remains to be said that the current U.S. Administration does not define its aims and means in the Gulf in light of the real U.S. interests, but is defining them under the influence and pressure of the Zionist lobby on the U.S. decision maker. What the U.S. national security adviser cannot say is that the Zionist factor plays a decisive role now in determining the aims and means of U.S. policy in the region, and that this Zionist factor stands behind all this U.S. hatred and hostility to Iraq.

Peres Views 'Very Good Agreement' With PLO

TA3103103894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0905 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Qobi Meydan, from the "As Of Now" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Meydan] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is on the line. Good morning, sir.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Meydan] Do you know whether the agreement with the PLO has been signed already?

[Peres] What I know is that it is supposed to be signed at this time. The main thing is that there is an agreement.

[Meydan] Do you think the agreement is good for Israel?

[Peres] Look, it would have been better had there been no need for this agreement, which arose after the events in Hebron. But in view of what happened, it is a very good agreement.

[Meydan] How much have we ceded?

[Peres] I do not know what you mean by ceded. We never intended to annex Hebron, either the Likud or Labor. Hebron will probably have partial autonomy. There is an incredible tension there as a result of the Cave of the Patriarchs event, and that is not surprising. We are all constantly discussing borders, places, situations. The truth is the main problem is relations. If we had different relations, there would be no problem with Hebron. I think that what we have done was a great attempt to heal understandable emotional and spiritual wounds.

[Meydan] What will the multinational contingents do there? I understand that several countries will participate.

[Peres] First of all, they will calm raging tempers. Also, they will help rebuild as much as possible, to restore a normal, more reasonable life. Things like that. They will also help the municipality reorganize economically and socially.

[Meydan] How will they be armed?

[Peres] They will have weapons for self-defense—probably handguns.

[Meydan] Will they have any powers vis-a-vis IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers?

[Peres] No, no, they will not deal with any security aspects.

[Meydan] Not even vis-a-vis settlers?

[Peres] Settlers do not enter the picture. Overall responsibility should remain in the hands of the legitimate government, and we are the legitimate government. The same applies to the Cave of the Patriarchs: Neither the settlers nor the worshipers of either religion are in charge of the cave. The exclusive, overall responsibility is of the Government of Israel, and the Government of Israel is the one that will safeguard security and ensure that worshipers can access the site they hold holy and pray without fearing anything. This is our responsibility, and we will not shirk from it.

[Meydan] There is one word we have been shirking: internationalization. It is now part of the Hebron vocabulary.

[Peres] Where is the connection? Internationalization means the replacement of a sovereign government with an international government. There is no international government here. Observers have been known to be deployed in the past, such as in the Sinai, Gaza, Golan, in all kinds of places.

[Meydan] In territories under Israeli sovereignty?

[Peres] You are wrong, this territory is not under Israeli sovereignty. Hebron is not under Israeli sovereignty, it is under Israeli control. In the Camp David Accords, Mr. Begin agreed that this place, like other locations, would not be annexed.

[Meydan] Then the international presence is not something that can be extended....

[Peres, interrupting] The international presence is temporary, limited in time. I hope we will revert to better, more normal times shortly.

[Meydan] But the Palestinians are attaching great significance to this force.

[Peres] Their attaching great significance does not disturb me. There is nothing wrong with it, if it helps restore normal life.

[Meydan] How should we understand their waiving a Palestinian police?

[Peres] I think they did not want a force subordinate to the IDF.

[Meydan] Were they afraid of responsibility, perhaps?

[Peres] I do not think so. Rather, afraid of the symbolism of such a thing. Why had Palestinian policemen resigned in the past? Because of the same reasons; there had been about 900 policemen in Judaea and Samaria, and they all resigned.

[Meydan] The reports from Cairo are slightly confusing; perhaps we could try to understand them. They appeared to be referring to a return to the negotiations on the implementation of the Gaza and Jericho agreement, but there is now talk about Israeli consent to an early withdrawal from Gaza.

[Peres] It has been agreed that negotiations complementing the talks on the implementation of the Gaza and

Jericho agreement would be started at once, that the negotiations and the implementation would be accelerated. It had been agreed in Taba that Palestinian policemen will deploy in several locations in the Gaza Strip and Jericho even before the negotiations are completed. This is what is going to happen.

[Meydan] When will it happen?

[Peres] Within a week or so, I suppose.

[Meydan] Will they have overall powers?

[Peres] No, no, the powers are retained....[pauses] There cannot be two concurrent authorities. We are the authority, and we will remain the only authority until such time as we are replaced by another authority when an agreement has been reached. There will be no two concurrent authorities.

[Meydan] We are very close to 13 April.

[Peres] We may be able to implement a considerable part of the agreement by then and to turn the agreement, which has been a pile of papers until now, into a new reality. For the first time, the Palestinians will receive a measure of reality that will include land, responsibility, powers. Although it is not independence and sovereignty, it is still self-rule in the full sense of the word.

[Meydan] Thank you very much, Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] You are welcome.

Peres 'Seriously Considering' Early Gaza Withdrawal

TA3003193894 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem on 30 March —recorded]

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres this evening commented on the negotiations with the Palestinians. He said that Israel was now seriously considering implementing an early withdrawal from the Gaza Strip even before the negotiations were fully completed. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen interviewed the foreign minister a short while ago.

[Begin recording] [Peres] I think that both sides want to extricate themselves from this confusing situation and achieve results. The time is ripe for decisions and an interim period may only invite further trouble.

[Rosen] Sir, you are about to send armed Palestinian policemen and an multinational force into the powder keg that is Hebron. When will the government finally make the decision it is constantly discussing and inching toward to evacuate some of the Jewish settlers from Hebron?

[Peres] First of all, I would like to make things perfectly clear. The Jewish residents of Hebron are not in charge of the Cave of the Patriarchs. The Israeli Government, through the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], is responsible for the Cave of Patriarchs and for guaranteeing freedom of access and worship at the site. As for Jewish settlers residing in Hebron, the government has to reach a decision. There is no point in ministers, including myself, making premature statements. The appropriate place for discussions is in the cabinet, not the media. Clearly, we are facing a very difficult problem. It is not a problem of rights but a problem of relations.

[Rosen] Is Israel ready to consider starting its withdrawal from the Gaza Strip even before the negotiations are completed in order to meet the target date of 13 April?

[Peres] I believe that any reasonable proposal will be examined on an individual basis. I do not want to make any generalizations, but the Palestinians are not the only ones who want to enter the Gaza Strip quickly. We also want to transfer authority to them quickly. There is no point in gaining another week or two of riots. We have no interest in this. All the violent confrontations which took place recently cause all of us pain, and we have no interest in seeing any further bloodshed, not of Arabs and certainly not of Jews. [end recording]

IDF Plans for Gaza, Jericho Withdrawal Detailed

TA3103060194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is preparing to evacuate all forces from most parts of the Gaza Strip and their deployment to the Qatif Bloc settlements and the northern edge of the Strip. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says that IDF commanders in the Gaza Strip and Jericho say that once the order is given, they will be able to complete the redeployment within 72 hours.

Yesterday bulldozers began clearing land near the settlement of Vered Yeriho in order to set up a crossing point to and from the autonomous region of Jericho. An Army base and a police and border police post are also to be built near the crossing point.

The Defense Ministry is considering setting up a special body which will deal with coordination between the IDF and security forces and the Palestinians in the autonomous zones of the Gaza Strip and Jericho. Qol Yisra'el's military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that a senior Army officer will head the committee.

Shahal Explains Palestinian Police 'Jurisdiction'

TA3003165694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal says there will be joint patrols between Palestinian police and the Israeli security forces in Hebron. In an interview with Amy Rhodes, Shahal said the move can be implemented immediately, and he hopes it will promote understanding between Israelis and the Palestinians.

[Begin recording] [Shahal] This was needed to give a feeling of security to the Palestinians living in Hebron after what happened on 25 February. The major issue, and the most important one is to have progress in the peace process.

[Rhodes] According to the compromise, there will be some 100 Palestinian policemen in Hebron. How will it work?

[Shahal] Well, first of all, the Palestinian police who are members of this police force....[pauses] It's going to be a municipality police force. They are going to be responsible for the institutions of the Palestinians in Hebron, they are going to be responsible for the Palestinian inhabitants. They will have joint patrols together with Israeli security forces, including Israel Police officers. They will be entitled to have light arms—the same that the Israel Police forces have, and those arms are going to be for self-defense of the police officers, and only when they are on duty. So, I think that it is very clearly defined what are the limitations, what is the jurisdiction. I hope it will promote understanding between the Israeli security forces and the future Palestinian police force.

[Rhodes] How soon until something like this can be implemented?

[Shahal] Immediately. [end recording]

Rabin Condemns Rabbis' Call To 'Disobey Orders'

TA3003172494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today condemned those calling on IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers to disobey their commanders' legal orders. This could herald the destruction of the IDF and the undermining of Israel's security, Rabin said. The prime minister noted that he had never accepted any refusal by soldiers to carry out orders because of political differences, neither during the Lebanon war nor by refusing to serve in the territories. The prime minister said that the individual's duty to obey legal orders constituted the backbone of democracy and of the IDF, which was the army of the Israeli people. Yitzhaq Rabin was speaking during a briefing to military correspondents. His remarks were reported by Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe.

Israeli officials, from both sides of the political spectrum have expressed reservations with the ruling issued by the three rabbis calling on soldiers to disobey orders in Hebron.

Likud Knesset Member [MK] Ari'el Weinstein called on his party to express reservations with the halakic ruling. He told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that Israeli citizens could oppose the evacuation of the settlers within the confines of the law but soldiers must carry out any order which does not clearly violate the law.

Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan vehemently protested the halakic injunction. He said that the rabbis had no right to make rulings on IDF orders. Eytan said that the IDF and its commanders must comply with all authoritative orders issued by the political echelon, even if it did not correspond with their personal viewpoint. Refa'el Eytan told our correspondent Shmu'el Tal that he was sure that the political echelon would not issue IDF commands that would divide the Israeli people.

Labor Party Secretary Nisim Zvili said that the edict issued by the three rabbis proves that they have strayed from their spiritual path and are guilty of attempted insurrection. Such fanatical rabbis, Zvili said, who either lead or are led by the lunatic and dangerous fringes of society, may spark off a civil war. Zvili hoped that the national religious Zionist camp would eradicate all manifestations of messianic zealotry.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 30 March reports that "Zvulun Hammer, the leader of the National Religious Party, said that if responsible and loyal rabbis like Shapira, Yisre'eli, and Neriya issued such a harsh and dangerous halakic ruling which implies that soldiers should disobey orders, then this proves that the government and the Left have pushed the most moderate members of the religious camp up against the wall. Hammer suggested that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin invite the rabbis to a meeting. MK Hammer told our correspondent Shmu'el Tal that the leadership of his party would meet with the three rabbis in order to hear exactly what they said and to be apprised of their position. Hammer also accused Minister Yosi Sarid of incitement and claimed that Sarid's reaction to the halakic edict would only cause more radicalization. Likud MK Mikha'el Eytan also blamed Minister Sarid for making slanderous remarks and fomenting divisiveness."]

Sarid Criticizes Rabbis Ruling

TA3003152994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Environment Minister Yosi Sarid sharply attacked the halakic ruling issued by Rabbis Shapira, Yisre'eli, and Neriya, calling on IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers to disobey any orders to evacuate Jewish settlers from Hebron. Minister Sarid said that the three rabbis behind the injunction were irresponsible people who were toying with the fate of the IDF and threatening the very existence of the state. If each and every individual exhorted their supporters to refuse objectionable orders, it would mean the end of the IDF, which would rapidly disintegrate together with rest of the country. The State of Israel should be pitied for having such stupid, irresponsible, reckless and good-for-nothing rabbis, Sarid said.

Knesset Member [MK] Moshe Qatzav, the chairman of the Likud Knesset faction, called on the government not to put the soldiers' obligation to obey orders to the test in the context of evacuating Jews from Hebron. MK Qatzav told our correspondent that such action by the government could lead to chaos within the IDF.

Chief Rabbis on Peace Process, Hebron Settlement

TA2903152594 Jerusalem YOM HASHISHI in Hebrew 25 Mar 94 pp 12, 13, 14, 15

["Holiday" interview with Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisra'el Me'ir Lau and Sephardic Chief Rabbi Eliyahu Baqshi-Doron by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] Moving on to the political problems, what is the Chief Rabbinate's attitude toward ceding territory within the peace process? Jerusalem was in the headlines this week. What are the rabbis' enlightening views?

[Baqshi-Doron] I knew such a question would be asked. I think one of the nicest and most heroic things we did this past year was not to talk about the issue. As the saying goes, he who is prudent will keep silent in such a time, for it is an evil time. Keeping silent is not easy. However, we set ourselves a rule in our capacity as chief rabbis who feel the influence they have on the entire nation to keep silent on such a controversial issue.

[Correspondent] This silence is being interpreted as cowardice and gutlessness.

[Baqshi-Doron] God forbid. The moment we are called upon to make an halakic ruling on the issue—and this will happen—we will consult our eminences and give our opinion. Today I do not know whether the leaders know where they are headed.

[Correspondent] But the rabbis cannot sit idly by when the nation is so split.

[Baqshi-Doron] Not only the nation, but also the rabbis, are divided. Rabbis and religious Jews differ on political and halakic issues. We know that our opinion does not carry any weight at this point. Consequently, as long as this is not necessary, we do not want to make a ruling favoring one side, which would only exacerbate the conflict.

[Lau] The issue came up in a meeting of the Chief Rabbinate Council after the publication of the Oslo agreement.

The Chief Rabbinate in its current constellation abides by resolutions passed by its predecessors. The matter has been discussed in one way or another over the 27 years since the Six-Day War. Since we accept these resolutions based on the halakic ruling about "honoring the edicts of elders," we presented them to current council members. These resolutions are registered in the minutes of the council's sessions, which answers your question about our position on the issue. The Israeli people's right over Eretz Yisra'el is inalienable. So, I speak as an educator, a father, a rabbi, and a teacher—not as a politician—when I emphasize the verse: He has shown His people the power of His works, in giving them the heritage of the nations. This is the basis of the entire Bible, and there is no question about it. On the basis of this principle that we all abide by, a process is currently under way whose details we are not familiar with. We said that as rabbis we must be sure of one thing: that the right over Eretz Yisra'el is not impaired. Even if politicians and the military must decide in their peace talks that they must give self-rule in a certain place within a certain period of time, this should not undermine our right over Eretz Yisra'el.

We will not be dragged into any corner of the political arena. We uphold the basic right concerning the integrity of Eretz Yisra'el, the right of Jews to live in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el. As long as this right is assured and is not impaired, we will abide by the consensus.

[Correspondent] Could you be more specific about the evacuation of Jews from Hebron?

[Lau] We are opposed to the evacuation of Jews from Hebron. We must pray for them to be able to live there, but we are opposed to their evacuation.

[Baqshi-Doron] I am in principle opposed to an evacuation, but the duty to save Jewish lives legitimizes an evacuation. [passage omitted]

Soldier, 'Terrorist' Wounded; Curfew Updated

TA3103095394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier sustained moderate head injuries in a stoning incident in the vicinity of the village of al-Jib north of Jerusalem. He was transferred to the Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the soldier was driving near the village, which is under curfew, when his car came under a barrage of stones.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 31 March adds the following: "Terrorists fired at an IDF outpost in the Jabalyah refugee camp this morning. None of the soldiers were hurt. The troops returned fire, gravely injuring one of the terrorists. The other gunman escaped, and Army troops mounted a manhunt for him. Our correspondent reports that one of the terrorists used an M-16 rifle and the other a Kalashnikov against the soldiers. Riots erupted in the refugee camp in the wake of the incident."]

Our correspondent notes that numerous Judaea and Samaria cities and villages remain under curfew today, including Nabulus and its environs; Tulkarm and the adjacent refugee camps; downtown Ramallah and the refugee camps near Ramallah; the al-Duhayshah refugee camp; and downtown Hebron.

Owners of gas stations in the territories complained today that the IDF has been prohibiting the supply of cooking gas and fuel to the Judaea and Samaria stations. A check conducted by our correspondent revealed that for security reasons, the IDF has been barring the entry of fuel and cooking gas trucks into the area for over two weeks, and the local population's fuel and cooking gas supplies are running out.

Fatal Shooting of Arab by Settler Investigated

TA3003172894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Wahil Nufal, an 18-year-old resident of Dayr Sharaf, a village near Nabulus, was fatally shot in the chest this afternoon. Villagers told our correspondent Moti Amir that Nufal had been shot by settlers firing at stonethrowers near the village. The security forces are investigating the circumstances of the shooting.

Two stonethrowers were shot and wounded by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire in the Nur al-Shams refugee camp. In Shuwaykha, a youth was also wounded when IDF soldiers shot at stonethrowers.

Police Arrest 2 Arabs in Petah Tiqva Ax Attack

TA3003155794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] The Central District police and the Shin Bet have arrested two Khan Yunus residents suspected of attacking Yitzhaq Rutenberg with axes at a construction site in Petah Tiqva yesterday.

Our correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i reports that the two men were arrested following exhaustive intelligence efforts in a joint operation by the Shin Bet and the police. The two suspects, both 21 years of age, were found in possession of Rutenberg's identity card. They were staying in Israel without permits.

Hebron Settlers' Spokesman Arrested

TA3103095694 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] No'am Arnon, spokesman of the Jewish residents in Hebron, was arrested this morning in Qiryat Arba'.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0900 GMT on 31 March adds that Arnon was arrested "after he refused to turn over his gun."]

Our correspondent in the territories Golan Yokhpaz reports that Arnon was scheduled to lead the right-wing rally in Qiryat Arba' today, and the organizers of the rally announced that they will not begin the rally before Arnon is released from custody. The police have not yet reacted.

Kakh Members Seeking Deportation to South Lebanon

TA3003195394 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Five members of the Kakh organization, settlers from the territories who are under administrative detention, have asked the prime minister to deport them to south Lebanon, an area they consider the birthright of the tribe of Asher, one of the 12 biblical tribes of Israel.

Our army affairs correspondent Alon Ben-David reports that the five men claim that their appeal was neither a media gimmick or a joke. They assert that their deportation to south Lebanon would satisfy the prime minister's craving to be rid of them and also get them out of jail. The five said that in south Lebanon they could contribute to the conquest of Eretz Yisra'el and the war against terrorism while realizing their Jewish and Zionist aspirations.

Sources Concerned About Tensions in S. Africa

TA3003122794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Mar 94 p A6

[Report by security affairs correspondent Sharon Shade]

[Excerpts] Israeli sources express concern in view of the growing tension between black factions in South Africa in anticipation of the elections in April. The sources refused to react to foreign reports according to which missile scientists have threatened to reveal details of nonconventional weapons cooperation between Israel and South Africa. They also refused to comment on the possible ramifications of the new situation on bilateral cooperation. According to the sources, due to political reasons bilateral security cooperation has been extremely curtailed over the last few years, and this cooperation will be affected by future internal changes in South Africa.

In the past Israel maintained tight military and security cooperation with the white regime of South Africa, including—according to foreign reports—the development and manufacture of weapons to the tune of billions of dollars, as well as nuclear cooperation, including trade in sensitive raw materials. [passage omitted]

Israeli sources expect changes to take place in South Africa's security concept in the wake of the political changes there. It is possible that the South Africans will reevaluate various military projects. The Israeli sources believe that South Africa will strive to become a regional power and a leading African force by increasing its military power. This will require a rebuilding process in many parts of the Army, while introducing new battle doctrines to accommodate the new black recruits. The sources assess that the South African Army's ground forces will absorb many new black recruits. A long time will be required, however, to absorb them in the air force due to the complicated systems, which require long training periods for pilots, as well as technical and engineering personnel. [passage omitted]

Commentary Blames Fatah for Jabalyah Incident

TA3003121794 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Mar 94 pp 1, 19

[Commentary by Ron Ben-Yishay: "Let Fatah Establish an Inquiry Commission"]

[Text] It would be appropriate for the Fatah leadership to establish an inquiry commission into the killing of six senior Fatah activists in the Gaza Strip two days ago.

The mandate of such a commission—were it established—would be to determine why the six acted in direct contravention to the explicit understandings and agreements between Fatah and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], in such a way as to endanger their own lives and those of passersby. Such a commission would also ascertain who in the Fatah leadership knew about their activity or approved it, and punish those responsible.

Instead of doing this, however, the PLO leadership prefers—as always—to blame the IDF. And in the spirit of those who see a conspiracy behind every corner, there are people who disseminate in Israeli and foreign media that the undercover unit's attack on the six was initiated by a group of Israeli officers who want to foil the Oslo agreement.

However, the facts—which even Fatah people in the Gaza Strip do not deny—all indicate that the tragic mistake should be entirely attributed to the Fatah members. On Monday afternoon the six activists—after proper coordination with the IDF—participated in a memorial service for a Fatah activist in the al- Shaykh Radwan neighborhood, which is located only several kilometers from the site of the incident. The six were armed and wore checkered uniforms (apparently with tacit IDF agreement).

However, they did not settle for this. Following the ceremony—and without any prior coordination—they set up a roadblock on a main road of the Jabalyah refugee camp, stopped cars with drawn weapons (Kalashnikovs and pistols), and distributed leaflets.

It was dark, the Fatah men were masked, and wore no signs to indicate their affiliation—in clear contravention to the agreements between the Fatah leadership and the IDF in the Gaza Strip.

The undercover soldiers who spotted them assumed—and rightly so, from their point of view—that the six were terrorists, and went on to attack them. It should be noted that a short time prior to that incident an attempt was made to attack the IDF outpost in Jabalyah, and that the IDF is still responsible for maintaining security in the Gaza Strip. Fatah is also aware of the fact that undercover units are operating in the Gaza Strip and should have foreseen what would happen.

It is also inconceivable that 'Arafat's PLO would delay the negotiations on transferring responsibility for security to the PLO while at the same time its people on the ground are acting as though the negotiations have been completed and they no longer need to coordinate their moves with the IDF before departing on an armed mission.

The IDF, however, should also draw the appropriate conclusions. The Jabalyah incident ought to serve as a warning sign as to what could happen after a Palestinian police force deploys in Hebron, the Gaza Strip, and Jericho. It should be feared that the security cooperation agreements of the kind the delegations are currently striving to attain would "invite" such incidents.

The more complicated and intricate the security and coordination arrangements are, the greater the potential for fatal mistakes on both sides. And as is well known, mistakes cause escalation in violence and friction even between well-meaning Palestinians and Israelis.

The only way to avoid this situation is to clearly demarcate the borders of the sectors in which the Palestinian police force on the one hand, and the IDF on the other, will operate.

The joint patrols in the sectors slated to be jointly held will be an inexhaustible source for mistakes and misunderstandings—and consequently must be avoided. It is inadvisable to rely on coordination, especially with an inexperienced force—which is exactly what the Palestinian police force will be at first.

Commentary Examines Article by U.S. Official

TA3003154294 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Mar 94 p B1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "The Fourth Side"]

[Text] A visitor from the moon stumbling upon the latest issue of the FOREIGN AFFAIRS magazine might think the Middle East is a major inducer of insomnia among Washington decisionmakers.

Writing in the magazine, National Security Adviser Anthony Lake says that ever since the end of the Cold War, the only superpower has been apprehensive about the potential damage from five countries which choose to remain outside the international community and to assail its basic values. Three of these—Iran, Iraq, and Libya—grace the Middle East with their presence. (The other two are Cuba and North Korea.)

Lake's article focuses on the advantages of the U.S. strategy vis-a-vis the Iraqi and Iranian threats, known as "dual containment." Lake illuminates Israel's role in the era of peace as assigned by the United States. The strategic cooperation has lost the Soviet enemy, but Israel shall not stand alone. According to Lake, Israel, along with the other U.S. allies in the region—Egypt, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia—permit the United States to simultaneously contain the Iranians and the Iraqis. Thanks to Israel and the other U.S. friends in the region, the United States can afford to forgo the dubious satisfaction of cooperating with the devil against a greater devil.

By the way, the same magazine carries an article by Prof. Gregory Gause from the Columbia University, who presents the theory of those who doubt the logic of dual containment. He suggests seeking channels to Tehran while intensifying the pressure on the peace process participants, in order to foil the Tehran efforts to torpedo the process.

The timing of the publication of the National Security Council official's contemplations can hardly be accidental. The weight of his observations differs from that of the lecture on the dual containment policy delivered by his assistant, Martin Indyk, in May 1993. Lake insinuates the peace process dimension into the depth of strategic analysis: Peace between Israel and its neighbors, the senior adviser opines, will deprive Iraq of occasions to exploit the Palestinian suffering and divest Iran of the capability to cultivate chaos in Lebanon. Lakes is careful—possibly fearing Israeli reaction—not to include Syria in his vision of the Middle East coalition, although his remarks plainly reveal that his desire to move Syria away from Iran is as great as his aspiration to draw it close to Israel.

The United States will have to convince the Arab countries—the moderates and those on their way to becoming moderate—that the quadruple coalition will not threaten them or offer them formulas that will tempt them to cooperate, in exchange for overt and active support for the peace process; at the same time, President Clinton will have to pledge assistance to Israel toward reducing risks inherent in a compromise with the Arabs.

All this offers Israel an opportunity—perhaps unique—to take advantage of its special relationship with an administration which waives a priori the option of playing the game with two elements hostile to Israel and which mobilizes all its strength and influence for the sake of uniformly neutralizing all those who reject conciliation with Israel.

Since the end of the Cold War, Israel and its friends in the United States have been searching for a new footing on which the strategic cooperation—the source of many important advantages in the sphere of defense and public relations—can be established. Israel's becoming a frontline deterrent base against Iran and Iraq, and if necessary, a base for military action against them, requires a revaluation of the "dual containment" approach. If the Americans manage to create a Middle East NATO after the conflict between Israel and its neighbors is resolved, a new Middle East balance of power will have to be established. The new alliance will justify a generous supply of state-of-the-art technologies, weapons, and intelligence to Israel to ensure its deterrence vis-a-vis Syria.

Along with the above, we can expect the U.S. Navy to deploy a floating power off the Middle East shores and to create new jobs in Israel for the benefit of the U.S. troops and equipment. This handsome package, along with the blessing inherent in the termination of the war with Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon, must be weighed against the advantages stemming from retaining control over the Golan Heights.

The introduction of the peace process in the context of dual containment demands that the U.S. President pull out of the narrow labyrinth of the desire to gratify Israel—in fact, the Jewish constituency—at almost any cost. If U.S. weakness contributes to the failure of the peace process, the writings of the most senior national security adviser will become a national indictment against Clinton.

Commentary Analyzes Peace Options With Syria

TA2503203794 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 25 Mar 94 p 12

[Commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari: "An Open Declaration or a Secret Commitment"]

[Excerpt] Although the talks between Israel and the PLO on defense for the Palestinians attracted the most attention this past week, one should also take note of the contacts which the U.S. peace coordinator, Dennis Ross, conducted in Damascus rather than in Tunis. Washington is considering the chances of bringing about a breakthrough on the Palestinian track, but real achievements in the near future are possible only in the talks with Syria.

This week I met with some of the members of the Israeli Arabs delegation, led by Knesset Member 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, who had just returned from a visit to Syria. By the testimony of the delegation members, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' specified Damascus' position on the way in which a breakthrough in the negotiations with Israel can be achieved.

Al-Shar' said that Syria adheres to the formula of full peace in return for a full withdrawal from the Golan, but is prepared to discuss with Israel all the conditions the latter will present on the road to implementing the formula, so as to reassure it on security issues. At the same time, Syria refuses to specify the components of peace now since it does not trust that Israel indeed wants true peace.

Syria is offering Israel two options for the acceptance of the formula. The first option is an open, official declaration by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that Israel is willing to withdraw from the Golan in return for full peace. If Rabin openly declares the acceptance of the Syrian proposal, the road will be open to a historic summit between al-Asad and Rabin.

The second option, in case Rabin prefers not to declare Israel's readiness for a withdrawal openly, is for a secret

Israeli commitment to be relayed to the Syrians. Itamar Rabinovich, the head of the Israeli delegation to the talks, can convey such a commitment to his Syrian counterpart, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, together with Israel's position on the security arrangements. A secret commitment to withdraw from the Golan in return for full peace will complete the formulation of the joint Israeli-Syrian declaration of principles and will embark on the talks between the two countries on the road leading to peace.

What interest does Syria have in establishing peace with Israel? The members of the Israeli delegation to the negotiations got the impression that Syria's economic situation is reasonable. Furthermore, Syria emerged from the economic crisis which had plagued it, and its citizens currently enjoy economic prosperity. In theory then, Syria's condition is good and it has no reason to want a change. This is also the message the Syrians tried to relay to the members of the Darawshah delegation: "We are in no rush; we are waiting patiently."

The Syrians indeed have a feeling of self-confidence which enables them to pose maximal opening demands. At the same time, the decision by the Syrian leadership to prefer economic development obliges it, of necessity, to turn to a road of peace and to help the Israeli Government to promote a new Middle East based on econmy. The suspicious Syrians show great hostility toward the ideas of a new Middle East presented by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, claiming that Israel intends to take over the region economically. Still, when the two countries agree on the framework of bilateral peace and Syria joins the multilateral talks, many of its fears on this issue will surely dissipate. Syria boycotts the multilateral talks which discuss regional cooperation indeed, but it is still following, via France, all those details raised in the talks which concern it, such as the regional roads network in which Damascus is supposed to feature prominently.

It is clearly understood in Syria that if the Israeli Government does not make real progress in the peace talks this year, then a right-wing government which may emerge from the ruins of the present process will bring the war tension back and this will result in new economic deterioration in Syria. The Syrians are also troubled by Israel's nuclear capability, and want to take advantage of the peace talks in order to safeguard themselves from this aspect of Israel's power.

Syria's name has so far been linked with radical forces in the Middle East. Nevertheless, following its policy in Lebanon may point to new trends which can also influence its policy toward Israel and its position on the Palestinian question. The invitation extended to Darawshah's delegation too indicates that Syria is shifting the emphasis to those who represent the moderate mainstream. [passage omitted]

King Husayn, PLO Envoy Meet, Discuss Issues

JN3003173094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Hakam Bal'awi, the Palestinian president's envoy, at the Royal Court today. Bal'awi conveyed to his majesty a message from President Yasir 'Arafat, in which he explained the difficulties facing the negotiations and obstructing the peace process. He stressed that the Palestinian leadership always seeks joint action with the Arab states in general, and with Jordan in particular.

The Palestinian envoy stressed to his majesty that the Palestinian leadership appreciates his majesty's concern for the Palestine question, and his continuous sincere efforts to maintain the Arab identity of Jerusalem, to safeguard the holy places in it, and to maintain its Arab and Islamic identity. He noted that the Palestinian leadership hopes that his majesty's sincere efforts will continue to safeguard the Arab identity of Jerusalem.

His Majesty King Husayn explained to the Palestinian leadership's envoy the historic role Jordan has played over the past decades in defending the Palestinian people's rights, as well as its persistent efforts to alleviate the suffering of the kinsfolk in the occupied homeland and to enable them to attain their rights on their national soil. His majesty emphasized that his concern for the Arab identity of Jerusalem is a historic concern that embodies Jordan's commitment to its nation's issues and to safeguarding its rights and the future of its generations.

Attending the meeting were al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Court; Marwan al-Qasim, his majesty's political adviser; and al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

Stresses Peace to German Minister

JN3003173494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received German Labor Minister Norbert Bluem at the Royal Court today. His majesty stressed Jordan's position on the peace process in the region, and the need to reach a just and comprehensive solution that guarantees the Arab and Islamic rights as stipulated in the international resolutions.

Norbert Bluem praised His Majesty King Husayn's wise leadership and the firm and balanced Jordanian policy toward various regional and international issues. He expressed his country's concern about promoting cooperation between the two countries.

Attending the meeting were al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; Khalid al-Ghizawi, labor minister; and the German ambassador in Amman.

Prime Minister Says Israel Changing Agenda

JN3003132994 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] The Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has received a delegation of the Foreign Policy Association in Denmark which is currently visiting Jordan. During the talks, the prime minister reviewed the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations on the Middle East. Here is more:

[Begin al-Majali recording] In fact, discussing, rather [than] negotiating because, still, Israel hesitant on getting on the principles of the negotiation. In other words, the principle items, which is the occupied territories, which is water, and refugees. These three. And they want us to negotiate on tourism, on energy, on trade, on, on, on, on, which is what we call the items of normalization rather that to solve the principles.

Now, as I said, going back to our thinking or a state of mind that in peace negotiation nobody should be the winner or the loser, all should be gaining. We did innovate an idea where we put all the items on the same level. No priority. All have the same priority. And then we went further and we suggested to them, and they accepted, that we put them into baskets. Now in each basket we put items which we want, items which they want and we discuss them at the same time.

Unfortunately, so far, for reasons of their own, they are not coming through for this negotiation. They say: Look here, we cannot discuss or negotiate occupied territories, withdrawal from the land, or shares of water. Let it be this at the very end when we have the peace treaty.

In other words, I just want to be very quick. They want to put the agenda upside down. In other words, the last word on the agenda was the peace treaty to be put on the top and now we negotiate peace treaty and then these items will come through. [end recording]

Tourism Minister Denies Contact With Israelis

JN2403155594 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 23-28 Mar 94 p 2

[Report by Majid al-Khudari and Ra'id al-Najjar]

[Text] The International Tourism Fair was held in Berlin last month. In its noon newscast on Monday, 7 March 1994, Israel radio said Jordanian Tourism Minister Muhammad al-'Adwan visited the Israeli pavilion and made a statement in which he said: I hope Jordan and Israel will overcome their extremists so the desired peace between the two countries will be realized soon. I also hope that after signing a peace agreement between the two countries, it will become possible to carry out joint tourist projects to attract foreign tourists to Israel and Jordan. He said Jordanian businessmen and investors are ready to cooperate with their Israeli counterparts on setting up joint ventures that serve bilateral economic and tourist interests.

Israel radio attributed this statement to al-'Adwan during a surprise visit to the Israeli pavilion, as the radio claimed. The radio said the Jordanian minister arrived in the pavilion unexpectedly, and that the director general of the Israeli Ministry of Tourism was quickly called in to receive the unexpected guest.

Sources at the Israeli pavilion expressed a belief that the political relaxation in Middle East relations have a direct impact on the change in the Arab world and the visits to various Israeli fairs by Arab officials. The Israeli side proposed tourist deals to their Arab visitors.

Israeli tourists toured Arab pavilions. The director general of the Israeli airlines company visited the Yemen pavilion and met with Yemeni businessmen.

Ahmad al-Ma'ni, director general of a tourist company in Dubai, told Israeli press representatives who visited the Dubai pavilion that what happened in Hebron turned things upside down.

Ibrahim Yasin, a ranking Syrian Tourism Ministry official said several Syrian officials are impatiently waiting for the time when they will be allowed to visit Israel.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SABIL, Dr. Muhammad al-'Adwan, Jordanian minister of tourism and antiquities, said this report is baseless. He said: I did not visit the Israeli pavilion, nor did any member of the Jordanian delegation. No one made a statement to the Israeli media. This report is totally untrue, he said.

He said the objective of Israel radio is to stir up a clamor and to try to harm the firm Jordanian position by diverting attention from the ugly massacre committed by Israeli settlers.

Al-'Adwan welcomed cooperation between AL-SABIL and the Ministry of Tourism in the service of the public interest.

Daily on U.S. 'Seige' of al-'Aqabah Port

JN3103082994 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 31 Mar 94 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "Jordan Is Committed to Comprehensive Peace"]

[Text] Jordan responded to the U.S. call to take part in the Madrid conference because the conference was based on achieving a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle. The conference was also based on restoring all the occupied Arab territories, foremost of which is holy Jerusalem, and on fully restoring the national rights of the Palestinian people.

However, the U.S. Administration abandoned its role as a full and effective partner in the peace process and forgot about the Madrid terms of reference. It began to encourage and support Israel in its attempts to fragment the peace process and to strike separate deals. It also gave Israel the liberty to maneuver and prevaricate. It went on to plant obstacles on the road to a just and comprehensive peace. The U.S. Administration bypassed UN Security Council resolutions and tried to impose its conditions on the Palestinian and other Arab parties.

Furthermore, the U.S. Administration harshly pressured all the Arab parties in order to impose Israeli conditions on them. As a result, Israel succeeded in imposing the Oslo, Davos, and Cairo accords on the Palestinian side.

Because Jordan is firmly committed to a just and comprehensive peace based on Resolutions 242 and 338, the U.S. Administration, at Israel's request, strongly pressured and harassed Jordan to agree to sign a separate agreement with Israel. The U.S. siege imposed on the Port of al-'Aqabah is part of this harassment, which has caused serious harm to Jordan's economy and trade.

When His Majesty King Husayn visited the United States, he was asked to sign a separate peace agreement with Israel before the problems of water, occupied territories, and refugees are solved.

However, His Majesty King Husayn, who has never submitted to pressure or harassment from any party, rejected the U.S. offer with courage, pride, and a firm Hashemite will. He stressed the need to restore Jordanian rights to the occupied territories and to the plundered waters, and the need to resolve the issue of refugees and evacuees. This spurred a U.S. desire to take revenge on Jordan.

As a result of all this, the U.S. Administration began to tighten the siege on Jordan in order to cause more harm to it. Hence, the brave Hashemite response announced by His Majesty King Husayn when he linked continuation of Jordan's participation in the peace process with the lifting of the siege imposed on the Port of al-'Aqabah. He stressed that Jordan is a difficult number in the equation and that it will not submit to pressures that are suspect in terms of causes and objectives.

Column Notes Iraqi Press Criticism of Foreign Ministry

JN2603165294 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Mar 94 pp 36, 32

["Last Station" column by Salih al-Qallab: "BABIL's Admonitions"]

[Text] For the second time in less than two months, the Iraqi daily BABIL, whose board chairman is 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, has criticized Iraq's foreign policy, contending that decisionmakers "have given the United Nations and the West everything but got nothing in return."

Aware that the Iraqi press is state-controlled, foreign observers are speculating that BABIL's admonitions may signal an imminent shakeup in the Iraqi diplomatic community that may see the country's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf lose their jobs.

BABIL's views and commentaries are not necessarily those of the decisionmakers in Iraq. It must be pointed out, however, that Iraq's foreign policy, and that of all nations, for that matter, is a reflection of its internal politics, all the more so in the absence of a pluralistic political system of government or a state within a state.

Out of our concern for Iraq, we will venture to say that BABIL's criticisms are not well founded. It does not make sense to single out one party for criticism and lay the blame for the failure to get the sanctions lifted at the doorstep of Iraq's foreign policy makers. It is not so much the preformance of this or that Iraqi diplomat that will get the job done. It has more to do with Iraq's overall policies, administered by a well-known leader.

To be fair, there is much to be said for the way the diplomatic team led by Tariq 'Aziz conducted itself at the height of the Kuwait crisis. Even hostile Western circles will go along with that evaluation. At the United Nations, 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari did a wonderful job that few, in his place, could match. The same could be said for 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi, who steered a successful media effort from Paris under unfavorable circumstances and an unequal balance of forces.

Even Henry Kissinger, renowned for his feats on the diplomatic battlefront, could not have outperformed Tariq 'Aziz, Nizar Hamdun, or al-Sahhaf. The diplomatic team of any nation with circumstances similar to those of Iraq would probably do no better.

In the kind of circumstances—a bottleneck—Iraq is going through, such brilliant diplomats should be retained, not fired. Iraq has had more than its share of exhaustion and bloodletting over the last three decades.

It is more than likely that BABIL's admonitions to the directors of Iraq's foreign policy are not inspired by the country's top leadership, but are the opinion of their authors. If, indeed, they are inspired from above, then Iraq is in for a big loss that it can ill afford in these particularly hard and critical times.

Palestinian, Jordanian Investment Company Set Up

JN2303143794 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Mar 94 p 12

[Report by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—A group of over 60 Palestinian and Jordanian businessmen have founded an investment company with an initial capital of over $100 million to jump-start the economy of the West Bank and Gaza even before Palestinain self-rule is implemented there.

Today the founders of the company, officially registered as an off-shore firm in Liberia due to the still lucid political conditions in the occupied territories, will elect their board of trustees at the Amman Chamber of Industry.

The Palestine Company for Development and Investment (PCDI) is to be a public share-holding company which is founded by mostly millionaire Palestinian businessmen based in and outside the Arab World.

The founding members who spoke to the Jordan Times Tuesday asked to stay anonymous until after the board of trustee elections.

"After the elections most of the founders and investors will be known to the public. There is no need to publicize names before-hand," said the company's Amman spokesman Rajaii al-Masri.

The company plans to invigorate the Palestinian economy by building much of the housing and industrial infrastructure needed to upgrade the living and working conditions of the almost two million Palestinians living in the occupied territories in the next 10 years.

Addressing many in the occupied territories who fear an "economic takeover" by Diaspora Palestinians once self-rule is implemented, company founders say the development projects will employ local expertise, labour and use locally-made building materials wherever available.

PCDI has three main "priority projects." The first is to build reasonably priced modern middle class housing projects throughout the West Bank, Gaza and possibly East Jerusalem.

The second most "urgent" objective is to build "heavy" industries. While investors who spoke to the JORDAN TIMES declined to be specific, a cement plant was given as one possible example. The third most important objective is to build smaller self- sustaining industries.

Another "IMMEDIATE PROJECT" will include a chain of medium sized hotels in all the major cities and towns in the occupied territories, for the "throngs of Palestinian and Arab visitors" that are expected to converge on the occupied territories in the near future.

PCDI has been years in the making. According to company sources, development projects founded and supported by the Geneva-based Welfare Association have been vigorously analysed to serve as a blue print for economic needs "large and small" in the occupied territories. But unlike the Welfare Association, which is a non-profit foundation for humanitarian and development assistance for Palestinians, PCDI is a large-scale business venture.

The company was officially registered in Liberia in October 1993 and will remain listed as an off-shore company until the political climate surrounding self-rule "stabilises," Mr. al-Masri said.

Company stocks will be listed in a Palestinian stock market once that is set up in the occupied territories. An initial suggestion for the location of a Palestinian stock market has been Ramallah, Bethlehem or Nablus.

PCDI founders say the company will have several subsidiaries.

One such firm, the Ruwad Filistine Company, a construction firm, is already being set up in the occupied territories.

More than half of PCDI shares (or 51 per cent) will be owned by people who live inside the occupied territories, Mr. al-Masri says. The rest will be owned by Jordanian and Diaspora Palestinians.

Before the company becomes fully operational the investors hope that the starting capital would have increased to $200 million.

Before the shares go on sale to the general public, initial capital raising begins with those investing a minimum of $100,000 with a maximum capital ceiling of investment put at $2 million.

While the majority of the investors thus far have been Diaspora Palestinians, followed by Jordanian Palestinians and others living in Arab countries, a few West Bank and Gaza investors have also invested.

While many of the Diaspora and Jordan-based Palestinians have invested the maximum $2 million, none of the West Bank and Gaza based investors have been able to do so thus far," said one of the investors.

The degree of autonomy the company will have from Palestinian government and Israeli interference is still to be worked out, founders say. "We expect a very large degree of economic autonomy," said one leading investor.

Most company founders still prefer relative anonymity citing both political and personal reasons. "The political situation is still too fluid," said a leading founder, "most of the investors are nationals of countries other than Jordan and to play such a major role in the building of another economy needs indirect approval from certain quarters. So until everything is perfectly clear most prefer anonymity."

But those investors who are Jordanians national, who form a "good third if not a half" of the founding investors, have an implicit approval from the Jordanian Government. "Jordan and Palestine are intricately linked and the only non-Palestinians to found the company are Jordanians. So it is a special relationship," said one of the founding members, Nidal Sukhtyan.

But the Jordanian Government is not the only government to have been consulted about PCDI. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) too has been extensively briefed about the company's plans and intentions and has given its tacit approval.

"The Palestinian entity will be one in which the open market rules and business community will bank roll the economy. Naturally the PLO approves," said one founder.

Individuals, companies and banks are among the initial founders of the PCDI and the board of trustees to be elected today is likely to include the economically most powerful people in the lands to come under Palestinian control.

Three Arrested for 25 Feb Stabbing of Russians

JN3003090994 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 28-29 Mar 94 p 2

[Text] Amman—The security forces have detained three people for assaulting two Russian nationals. The details of this case, as received by AKHIR KHABAR, are:

At 1715 on 25 February, a "special police" patrol heard calls for help from two Russian nationals who were being attacked by three people who stabbed them with a penknife.

The three people fled when the patrol arrived on the scene, but police gave chase and arrested one of them, named Yasir 'Abd-al- Salam 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Satari, formerly from al-Ramlah and currently an al-Husayn Camp resident.

The two Russian nationals, Victor Manhalbin and May Rijan [names as transliterated], received medical treatment. Rijan works for the national wrestling team as a trainer. Yasir confessed that he was accompanied by Kayid Muhammad Salamah and Rawhi Talal Ahmad, both residents of the al-Husayn Camp. The three were delivered the head of the preventive security section to complete their interrogation. He then transferred them to the General Intelligence Directorate, were they remain.

23 Arrested in Plots To Kill Peace Negotiators

NC3003145294 Paris AFP in English 1341 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Amman, March 30 (AFP)—The authorities are holding 23 Jordanian Islamic militants suspected of trying to kill Jordanian and Palestinian leaders involved in peace talks with Israel, a legal official said here Wednesday.

The 23, all veterans of the Afghanistan war, were believed to have plotted to kill Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and Palestinian peace negotiators Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi last year, according to charges being drawn up against them.

The militants, already detained for more than one month, were also suspected of involvement in a series of bomb blasts in Jordan in January and February.

The official said the militants plotted to kill al-Majali during an interview, with one of the group posing as a journalist. However, the interview was postponed.

Al-Majali was leading Jordan's delegation to the bilateral peace talks with Israel at the time. The Arab-Israeli talks were suspended after the February 25 Hebron massacre.

The militants also planned to kill al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi when the Palestinian leaders made one of their regular trips to Amman, the official said.

Bombs were to be planted in their hotel rooms with the connivance of a hotel employee, but the plot failed due to the secrecy surrounding the Palestinian leaders' movements.

The official said the militants were expected to stand trial at the end of April.

The group's aim was to "torpedo the peace process and get alcoholic drinks, bars and cinemas outlawed," the official explained.

On February 6 the authorities said they had arrested two Islamic militants implicated in the bombings of two cinemas in Jordan on January 26 and February 1 which injured a total of nine people. The two had reportedly fought in Afghanistan.

Interior Minister Salamah Hammad said a group of militants had been rounded up for planning attacks against the Jordanian parliament and leading political figures.

Nearly 400 Jordanians and Palestinians have returned to Jordan over the past year after undergoing military training with the Afghan Mujahedin.

Refugee Affairs Minister Comments on Various Issues

PM2903145494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Mar 94 p 3

[Interview with Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party and refugee affairs minister, by Randah Taqiyy-al-Din in Lausanne; date not given]

[Text] [Taqiyy-al-Din] What is your opinion of the disbandment of the Lebanese Forces party and arrest of some of its officials like retired Major Fu'ad Malik?

[Junblatt] That measure was needed because the Lebanese Forces phenomenon can only grow through a small partitionist scheme in a Christian area and on Christians' bodies. If we go back and read the speech by Samir Ja'ja' after the Sayyidat al-Najah Church explosion, we can try him, regardless of the legal or criminal evidence. We can try Samir Ja'ja' because he wanted to arouse sectarian feelings and to say that the state is impotence, and to say, look, here we are. He delivered this speech on the same day the Sayyidat al-Najah bomb exploded. But we should not confuse the Lebanese Forces' disbandment at the political, security, and economic level and the issue of freedoms.

There are people suspected of being key Forces financiers, some of whom may have laundered their money inside the country. These must be prosecuted.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] Do you support the government's ban on news bulletins in the media services?

[Junblatt] The government should long ago have studied the media issue and passed a clear law on the visual and audio media services. As a result of the Forces issue, the government hastily issued the decision in question. Unless the government draws up a clear bill on Tuesday (today) and speedily sends it to the Chamber of Deputies, we will consider that there is an unconstitutional and undeclared state of emergency in the country. I warn that we cannot tolerate such a situation. Because later, and under the slogan of suffocating and controlling freedoms, the situation will affect the theater issue and the opposition. That is, I personally am a member of the government but oppose it sometimes, so how about the legitimate opposition? If this situation continues, it will set a precedent we have never heard of before in Lebanon except in the days of Amin al-Jumayyil and the Shahabis.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] Some Christians are frustrated and believe that the state is using two scales: disbanding the Forces and not touching Hizballah, for example.

[Junblatt] The frustration theory is aimed at partitioning the country and hitting the achievements of the al-Ta'if agreement. We should give that up. Hizballah, the Islamic phenomenon, or the national phenomenon—that is, the resistance—is a different matter. It is natural for this phenomenon to perform its activities and maintain its presence in the south, only in the south. No one can put pressure on this phenomenon before the land in the south has been liberated. But the Christian frustration and the speeches delivered by the patriarch (Nasrallah Sfayr) and other leaders are sometimes aimed at striking at the al-Ta'if agreement or proposing Christian self-security, as advocated by some voices following the Sayyidat al-Najah Church explosion, to the extent that some of them wanted to close the Nahr al-Kalb tunnel in order to say: "We are here...this is our self-security"—which is unacceptable.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] If the involvement of Samir Ja'ja' is proved, do do you support his arrest, or do you believe that it would aggravate sectarian disunion?

[Junblatt] When the Sayyidat al-Najah Church incident took place, I urged that those concerned be investigated and prosecuted and that the senior security officials of Ja'ja', like Ghassan Tuma in Paris, Pier Rizq, known as Akram, and others in Paris or in Canada, should be brought to the country. A very violent statement was issued by the Forces at the time, but I did not respond to it because I knew they were seeking to provoke me, that is all. I support the prosecution fully. I believe that Samir Ja'ja' must be arrested and condemned if it is proved he has certain links, as his history is eventful. I also believe that one of the security measures which should be taken is to close the crossings to the south in order to limit the Israeli infiltrations from Jazzin and elsewhere and prevent security elements from infiltrating the country and planting bombs or booby-trapped cars. The people of the south might complain in the end, but the people of the Golan have been steadfast for over 20 years and continue to safeguard their Arabism. I do not believe that the people of the south will abandon their Arabism.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] What stage has been reached in your efforts to return the evacuees to the mountain?

[Junblatt] The evacuees issue is linked to financial resources, and this issue and the other plans proposed by the state should be given every effort. We note some laxity on the part of some circles, which are interested in other projects which I believe are not among the priorities. Maybe the evacuees issue is not as "useful" as the conferences palace or the railroad project, but it should be given priority over the conferences palace, the railroad project, and the central Beirut project. We and [Prime Minister] al-Hariri are cooperating to give the fund a sufficient loan, but of course, we have to speed up this matter, because evacuees cannot wait.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] How do you view the situation in the Arab-Israeli negotiations?

[Junblatt] I said in the past, and I repeat and stress now, that we are at an impasse, because Israel is procrastinating and will not return the land. Nor will it give the Palestinians the right to sovereignty over the land and resources, especially water resources. It is an issue of time, as far as Israel is concerned. It is trying to absorb the Hebron shock and tomorrow it will invent something new. At present they are involved in the whirlpool of distracting the PLO with the protection issue, and there will be strange and amazing chaos among the Palestinian police, the Israeli Army, and the settlers, who will all be carrying weapons. It reminds me of the situation in Beirut during the chaos in the days of 'Arafat. We used to form joint committees, unified forces, and so on...the same situation has moved to the West Bank, but the difference is that we are dealing with a clever group, that is the Jews.

Media Committee To Amend, Redraft Law

NC3003200094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Statement by Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr in Beirut on 30 March—recorded]

[Excerpt] The ministerial committee is in charge of studying the issue of information in general and Legislative Decree No. 104 in particular—which the Government has pledged to amend and redraft for the Chamber of Deputies— and is to present it at the next Cabinet session. At yesterday's session, the Cabinet asked the ministerial committee to meet again to prepare a new draft law on the audio and visual media.

Following discussions, the committee prepared a specific program for amending Legislative Decree No. 4, and these amendments will be presented to the cabinet at its next session, which I believe will be held next Wednesday [6 April], so it can make the appropriate decision and refer the draft amendments to the Chamber of Deputies.

Regarding the law on audio and visual media, which is being redrafted, the committee reviewed it in light of all recent developments. We again heard the views of the ministers. There was a general discussion of this issue and it became evident that it is necessary to completely redraft the entire law in a way that ensures the citizen's rights and protects public freedoms and the homeland's higher interests. Therefore, we have begun to prepare a new draft law. I believe that we will able to make progress at the next session in light of all the data that will be at the disposal of the committee at next week's session. [passage omitted]

Phalangist Leader Notes Reasons for Media Suspension

NC3103063294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi received Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah yesterday Sa'adah said al-Hirawi briefed him on the reasons prompting the government to postpone granting permission to radio stations to broadcast news and explained the recent suspension of newscasts. He said: I was convinced of some reasons and now I am convinced of the others. No one can bargain over the issue of freedom in Lebanon, he said. He voiced his hope that the Council of Ministers will settle this issue quickly.

Dr. Sa'adah spoke of the possibility of links between the bombing of the Sayyidat al-Najat Church in Zuq Mikha'il and the Phalangist Party headquarters, expressing his confidence in the Lebanese judiciary and urging patience.

Papers Could Face Investigation for 'Incorrect' Reports

NC2703140194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Mar 94

[Text] Judicial sources have confirmed that they will ask the public prosecutor at the Court of Cassation on 28 March to investigate the AL-SAFIR and AL-DIYAR newspapers for publishing on 26 and 27 March incorrect reports pertaining to a current investigation, including AL-DIYAR writing that retired Major Fu'ad Malik was beaten up. Investigation circles have denied this report, noting that the judicial investigator asked Malik at the start of his interrogation, in the presence of his lawyer Emile Rahmah, whether he wanted to be medically examined by a state doctor for any reason. Malik and his lawyer replied that there was no need for that. This remark was recorded in the official minutes of the interrogation. The judicial circles do not conceal their extreme indignation at the attempt to focus the spotlight on the investigation and distort the proceedings. It has been learned that these circles will demand that the authorities pursue all those who interfere in this case without having official proof.

Shiites View U.S.'Silence' on Israeli Shelling

LD2403121194 Tehran IRNA in English 1143 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Beirut, March 24, IRNA—The Zionist regime's ruthless massacre of children in South Lebanon has prompted a wave of condemnation and hatred among the country's Islamic circles.

Prominent Lebanese religious leader, Allamah Sayyid Hasan Fadlallah, commenting on the incident, said here today that the massacre of the innocent people and students could not be justified under any excuse, political or religious. Lashing out at the international organizations and the United States for their deadly silence towards the latest Zionist crime, he said the U.S. and Europe which claim to be vanguards and advocates of human rights, did not even utter a word in condemnation of the savage shelling of al-Nabatiyah.

Several innocent students were killed and wounded in the shelling of the Israeli Army. "This silence only proves that the U.S. is an accomplice in the killing of the people of South Lebanon," he said.

The secretary general of Hizballah, Sayyid Husayn Nasrallah also strongly criticized Washington's policies towards the Zionist regime's crimes, and said: "Washington's silence once again proved that the rights of the nations and human values in general are of the least importance for the U.S. and other arrogant powers, and that they only care for the Zionists and their children."

The Hizballah secretary general called on the Lebanese people to get united in the fight against the Israeli aggressions and reiterated his party's all-out support for the anti-Zionist struggle.

Leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, Husayn al-Musawi called the U.S. "the gang leader of the world's terrorists" and said Washington was the enemy of the nations and universal peace. "The brand of peace that the United States is trying to impose on the countries of the region, is only a cover-up to serve its own illegitimate interests," he added.

Al-Musawi also strongly criticized the United Nations Security Council and said the organization was an executive of Washington's terroristic policies.

Meanwhile, the association of Lebanese Muslim ulama in a statement issued here today, termed the U.S. "the great satan" and a government without any humanitarian intentions.

'Awn Urges Tripartite Talks With Syria, Israel

PM2803104494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Mar 94 p2

[Interview with former Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn by Shukri Nasrallah in Paris; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Nasrallah] Are you still opposed to the pope's visit to Lebanon?

['Awn] I have not said that I am against the visit. I just expressed some political reservations about the visit because I consider Lebanon to be an occupied territory. Therefore, the sight of the pope shaking hands with the current regime's officials would greatly shock the Lebanese at the national level. [passage omitted]

[Nasrallah] What is your political peace plan for Lebanon?

['Awn] My plan is well known. There should first be a dialogue between me and those who are against me. I was the one who started the march. I refuse to have my country marginalized in the peace negotiations. Lebanon should be present as a major party at the negotiating table. There should be tripartite negotiations attended by Syria, Lebanon, and Israel.

I am willing to sign an agreement with any Lebanese Muslim to work together for the freedom and salvation of Lebanon. I am confident that I can bring the Christians to the dialogue table, and also the Muslims. I believe that I truly represent the Muslims just as I truly and freely represent the Christians.

That is my offer. I hope that nobody would claim to represent the Christians and Muslims more than I do. I have not rejected anyone. All I call for is equal rights for all the Lebanese in a dear, free, and independent Lebanon.

[Nasrallah] Tell us about the agreement reached between you and the government under which you signed a document indicating that you would not indulge in political acitivity in France.

['Awn] Let whoever holds such a document produce it.

[Nasrallah] The government says that it has something to that effect.

['Awn] I have nothing at all to do with the Lebanese Government. I neither negotiated with the Lebanese Government nor promised it anything directly, indirectly, or through mediators. I rejected that government and still do. So how could I negotiate with a government I do not recognize?

I had been kidnapped. I was a hostage inside the French Embassy. Even if their claim that I did sign something were true, it would be invalid under the law because I was not completely free to accept or sign anything. The situation is now as follows: I do nothing that contravenes French law, because I am a guest in France. I will do anything permissible under French law, regardless of whether or not I signed anything to the contrary.

[Nasrallah] I have heard you talk about funds seized by the Lebanese Government. What are these funds?

['Awn] There are funds in my name that did not come from the government or from donations. These were funds in the bank under my name and the names of my wife and daughters. The government froze these funds unfairly.

Furthermore, I was an army commander. I served Lebanon for 35 years. The government has ignored my material rights arbitrarily through a law that violated all laws.

Also, do not forget that I was prime minister and I have material rights and am entitled to compensation as army commander, and am also entitled to aides and a monthly salary and compensations. The government has rejected all that. [passage omitted]

[Nasrallah] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri says that nobody has claimed Gen. 'Awn's rights from him and that if that happened he would look into it.

['Awn] At any rate, my problem is not with them. I have not recognized them and I still do not recognize them. Even if they put me in the dock on any particular charge, I would not defend myself before them. [passage omitted]

[Nasrallah] Permit me to go to the heart of the matter. You tend to accuse Syria of everything. Is that right?

['Awn] Let me be frank. Am I an enemy of the Syrian regime? Have I betrayed it to Israel? Have I plotted against it? Have I taken political regional or international stands against its position or in a way detrimental to it? I only defended Lebanon. I never opposed special relations between Syria and Lebanon. I have said and I continue to say that I extend my hand to the sincere hands in Syria so that we can be two fraternal countries in the full sense of the word, with each one free, independent, and its own master. [passage omitted]

India

Prime Minister Interviewed on Various Bilateral Relations

BK3103091694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] The prime minister has expressed the hope that enhanced cooperation between India and the United States will continue despite sharp differences in some areas of national importance. In an interview published in the latest issue of INDIA NEWS, Mr. Narasimha Rao described Indo-U.S. relations as multifaceted, complex, and replete with challenges and opportunities. He said U.S. is India's largest trading partner as well as the largest source of foreign direct investment.

Referring to China, Mr. Rao said there has been steady improvement in Sino-Indian relations over the last few years. The uptrend in ties has facilitated attempts to resolve the difficult boundary question between the two countries.

Dailies Examine Current State of Relations With U.S.

U.S. Priorities Noted

BK2603083794 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 18 Mar 94 p 13

[By V.K. Madhavan Kutty]

[Text] Whenever a change takes place in the American Administration, especially from Republicans to Democrats, it is common practice in the media in India and also to some extent in government circles and among politicians to interpret it as a change for the good, particularly for Indo-U.S. relations. But the experience so far has been to the contrary, the simple reason being that the U.S. national interests and their perspectives have remained the same. In other words, the U.S. Administration never changed its attitudes and perspectives on world affairs. It has remained consistent, a fact we can overlook only at our own cost.

America fashioned its policies, tailored its approaches and upheld its values on democracy, human rights and whatever its founding fathers prescribed for them to suit their 'national interests' as Americans perceived them, whether it was Grenada, Panama, the Bay of Pigs, Iran and host of other things and even on Kashmir. To expect that America will play its role according to the rule book is too much. America will even extend a Most Favoured Nation treatment even if it is convinced that the recipient country violates and defies the basic principles America upholds and wants all others to adhere strictly.

America never stood by India or anybody else for that matter. If India drew inspiration from it during our independence struggle it was because it suited America's national interest to support us at that time. It makes one even to think retrospectively that it was in their national interest they wanted Britain to withdraw from India so that one day in the future they can be the replacement! The subsequent U.S. attitude particularly in recent years, more so after the end of cold war towards India on Kashmir, our economic development, scientific programmes, NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] etc. proves this. Perhaps America was in a happier situation when in the late 60s one Central Minister with proclaimed socialist leanings spoke of 'dove-tailing the plan', 'India's womb opening up', 'backseat driving' etc.

The doves have turned to hawks and planning is now at the dictates of World Bank and IMF. At that time there were warnings of the empire trying to come back by the back door. Now the suspicion has once again started growing among many Indians, thanks to Clinton's pronouncements, Robin Raphel's observations and John Mallot's comments. Opening up and liberalisation may be necessary in today's global situation but it should be in keeping with our national interests and not according to imported prescriptions.

One score and ten years ago, John Kennedy in his inaugural address said that American will "pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and success of liberty". Thirty years later Bill Clinton in his inaugural address proclaimed to protect America's "vital interests" and pledged American action when "the will and conscience of international community defied" that is to say that there will be interventions for reasons of American national interests and for reasons of American conscience. Recently an American commentator wrote: "It has been a long road (for Clinton) from Vietnam: the conscientious objector has become the conscientious warrior." He added that it was a "breakthrough" but a dangerous one. Even nations like India have to pay a "heavy price", bear the burden, meet hardships and is forced to support America, oppose their enemies for the survival and success of liberty and tolerate interventions anywhere if America thinks that their national interests and their conscience are affected.

The Americans always suffered from some sort of psychological obsession. During the 50s and 60s especially, it was their obsession that they have been entrusted with the responsibility to contain communism. In Vietnam and elsewhere they learnt bitter lessons. In later years their obsession was to uphold human rights and liberty in all parts of the globe and they will be the prosecutor and judge at the same time. Assuming this role, America serves their national interests today in many parts of the world with scant regard for other nations. The standard for fundamental values like democracy, human rights are set by them, administered by them, judged by them and if they find any nation guilty they appropriate the right to themselves to punish such nations by interventions and sanctions.

In 1971, Indira Gandhi in an article in Foreign Affairs wrote "....successive U.S. administrations have ignored the fact that India must see her problems and her relationship in a different perspective. India was regarded with disapproval and resentment because of her independent policy. This could not but affect relations between India and America. Despite fluctuations of mood, our relationship as a whole has been uneasy over long period".

Today, we are deliberating whether the Prime Minister should visit America now or later, whether a minor functionary of the American administration should be advised to postpone her visit to India or not. What is important is to tell America in the language it understands, as Mrs Gandhi did during the Bangladesh liberation. Prime Minister Narasimha Rao told the UN Security Council Summit last year that countries like India express their views but they are seldom heard. Even the UN is hijacked to serve the national interests of a particular country. This situation has to be, and must be, changed.

If the Indo-U.S. relations are to improve, American national interests and India's self-respect should go together. "Nations are not individuals, nations live in a state of nature. If they do not protect themselves they die. Ignoring one's interests, squandering one's resources in fits of altruism, is the fast road to national destruction", This warning given to America by an American equally applies to India.

Impact of Proposed Weapons Sale Examined

BK2603083594 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 20 Mar 94 pp 1, 24

[Article by the Diplomatic Editor]

[Text] New Delhi, March 19—The Clinton Administration' move to resume supply of F-16 fighters to Pakistan has cast a shadow over Indo-U.S. bilateral discussions starting here next week to enhance mutual understanding on several contentious issues.

The chances of a Prime Ministerial visit to Washington will also depend on the outcome of the talks here between Indian officials and Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel from Tuesday, and Deputy Secretary of State Strove Talbott in the first week of April.

The fact that the U.S. is despatching two senior officials to India within a fortnight has given rise to hope as well as apprehensions. There is hope that the Clinton Administration may be seriously trying to improve relations and clear up misunderstandings arising from certain unfortunate observations regarding Kashmir, human rights and the "Sikh rights". At the same time there exist apprehensions that the officials may only articulate the now-too- familiar stand of the Administration and attempt to bring pressure to bear on NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty], MTCR [Missile Technology Control Regime] and other such issues.

The Indian side expects the two senior officials to clarify the U.S. Administration's stand on all these issues. New Delhi's serious concern at the possible supply of more F-16 aircraft to Pakistan as a "one-time exception" through a Congressional waiver of the Pressler Amendment has been voiced in strong terms by the Prime Minister, the External Affairs Minister and the Chief of Air Staff. Such an act will upset the balance of power in the region, escalate the arms race and force India to divert more resources to defence to safeguard its security. That will not be a friendly act, Ms. Raphel and Mr Talbott will be told.

A visit by the Prime Minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, to Washington is still in the realm of uncertainty though officials on both sides have been talking about it in the hope that an Indo-U.S. summit will help clear up the misunderstandings and also expand the already strong economic relations between the two countries. But the fact remains that no formal invitation has so far been extended by the Clinton Administration to Mr Rao to visit Washington. This being the case, Indian side does not want to give the impression that it is keen on such a visit while the Clinton Administration is not or that success of such a visit would be ensured if India fell in line as regards the U.S. suggestions on NPT, MTCR and Kashmir.

The U.S. Secretary of State, Mr Warren Christopher, has tried to put the issue of Indo-U.S. relations in perspective by referring to United States' "great admiration" for India and "very high respect" for it. At the same time he has pointed out that "as with many friends we have problems with India" on issues like nuclear nonproliferation and human rights. The Indian side recognises that differences on several issues between the world's two largest democracies have persisted over the decades and will continue in the future. But observations like questioning the legality of Kashmir's accession to India and excessive concern for human rights have conveyed the feeling that there is a decisive U.S. tilt in favour of Pakistan.

Following the passage of the unanimous Parliamentary resolution, it is not open to the Indian Government to negotiate the status of Kashmir, and the Prime Minister has already said that there is no question of a dispute between India and Pakistan over Kashmir. Political opinion in the country is also sharply divided on the question of India trying to make up with the United States regardless of the existing controversies.

Many ruling party members feel that the fate of Indo-US relations should not hinge on the statements of a few foreign office officials, and that the two countries should cooperate with each other in economic and other fields. However, another section in the party as also in the Opposition, has accused the Government of prevaricating in responding to the provocative statements made by U.S. officials and by President Clinton himself. They feel that the Government should strongly resist U.S. interference in India's internal affairs, its encouragement to Pakistan which is sponsoring terrorism against India and its bolstering Pakistan's strength by resuming the supply of F-16s under the pretext of capping its nuclear programme. Although Pakistan's former Chief of Army

Staff General Aslam Beg is on record saying that Islamabad's nuclear programme has already been capped, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has recently declared categorically that "there is no question of Pakistan capping its nuclear programme."

Factors Affecting Ties Assessed

BK2703114094 Madras DINAMALAR in Tamil 13 Mar 94 p 6

[Unattributed article]

[Text] The United States has never been a close friend of India. At the same time, neither has it displayed any animosity. Of late, however, there has been a rapid change in the situation. The United States is doing everything possible to embarrass India. Why is it so furious against India? The sole reason is that, being an international policeman, it thinks that India has not become its consummate slave. Moreover, India's progress in South Asia as well as its overall development, which befits a global superpower, also irritates the United States.

Right from the Nehru era, only the Soviet Union maintained a close friendship and gave protection to India. The United States was unhappy with India as it was leaning toward the Soviet Union when both the Soviet Union and the United States were superpowers. Therefore, whoever became U.S. president, he maintained a moderate level of friendship with India. They never provoked India unnecessarily. Similarly, while being friendly with the Soviet Union, India never neglected the United States. It maintained an equal level of friendship with both countries.

The situation started changing after the Soviet Union was fragmented in 1992. Some change occurred in the moderate level of friendship that existed between 1941 and 1991. At the same time, India improved its ties with the United States without sacrificing its right of individuality. The stance adopted by India during the Gulf War a shortwhile before the break up of the Soviet Union pacified the United States. The then prime minister Chandrashekhar permitted the American warplanes, which took part in the Gulf war, to refuel in India. Although the opposition leader Rajiv Gandhi protested and the event created some turmoil, the Gulf War came to an end by then and the United States emerged victorious. Besides appreciating India for its cooperation, the United States came forward to strengthen its ties with India.

As a result, Indo-U.S. joint military exercises were organized. The commanders of the armed forces of the two countries met and held discussions. During the war in Afghanistan, the United States was lending support to the Afghan militants through Pakistan. Although Pakistan acted with silly intentions to neglect India, the United States did not endorse it. Moreover, when the Soviet forces withdrew from Afghanistan and Najibollah relinquished his presidency, the United States delinked itself from Pakistan. The resolution moved by Senator Larry Pressler to declare Pakistan a terrorist state and withhold all assistance because of its support to terrorists in Kashmir and Punjab was passed. An ultimatum was also issued to Pakistan that it would be declared a terrorist state, unless it mends its ways.

At this juncture, U.S. presidential elections were held by the end of 1992. George Bush was expected to be re-elected as the president. He was defeated and Bill Clinton became president. Some political observers predicted that India will have problems as long as Bill Clinton is the president. This was proved right. As soon as President Clinton took office, he indirectly made it clear that he is antagonistic toward India. He discreetly said that if India does not cooperate with (obey) the United States in its efforts to establish global peace, the U.S. will resort to other means.

What President Clinton said came true. The Soviet Union collapsed and the United States now is the only superpower in the world. President Clinton is prepared to tell the world that all countries should obey the United States and whoever does not obey will have to meet the fate of Libya, Cuba, or Iraq. He, who vetoed the decision to declare Pakistan a terrorist state, has extended assistance to that country and started using it as a tool against India.

Everything is under the grip of the United States, whether it is the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, or the United Nations. When it imposed certain regulations, India endorsed some of them—those with which it could cope and were deemed appropriate. Opposition parties accused Rao of introducing the economic liberalization program only per the dictates of the World Bank. It is true to a certain extent. The World Bank gave directives toward the establishment of a market economy in order to pave the way for implementing a privatization program, which is aimed at real economic growth rather than create a wrong precedence by granting unnecessary subsidies and concessions. As this program was deemed appropriate, Rao introduced it.

Then came the compulsion to accept the Dunkel proposals. It is nothing, but granting royalty to a country for a commodity which solely originates from that country. Although we have to grant royalty to the United States for some particular pharmaceuticals, we stand to gain in several ways. Agriculture will not be affected. Only after realizing this did the government accept the Dunkel proposals.

The United States, however, is exerting pressure on India to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. The United States thinks that if India signs the treaty, it can enslave India by crippling its military might. The treaty does not say anything about destroying nuclear weapons from the developed countries or to prevent their manufacture. India has insisted for the past few years that it will not sign a treaty which is aimed at crippling only the developing countries. This alone enraged the United States.

Then again, the United States has not given up the intention of setting up a military base in India. It has been nurturing this intention for several years. When India sensed this, it decided not to have any military exercises or strengthen its military ties with the United States. India's frontier regions are best suited to conduct military exercises or launch offensives from land, sea, or hilly terrains. Hence, the United States also wants to browbeat China by establishing bases in India, especially on its border with Kashmir by upgrading its military ties with India. India has not accepted this.

India's advancement in missile technology has also amplified the irritation of the United States. The successive accomplishments in the testing of Agni and Prithvi missiles have intensified President Clinton's indignation against India.

Under these circumstances only, President Clinton unnecessarily raked up the Punjab and Kashmir issues. Where there is a gradual return of peace in Punjab, he spoke about the deprivation of the rights of the Sikhs. His statements about the violation of human rights in Kashmir and about his readiness to assist the terrorists have dismayed India to an unprecedented level. So far, no president has raked up the issue of Kashmir or Punjab in such a silly manner just because India is not their slave. Similarly, they did not encourage Pakistan after describing it a terrorist state. Now, Clinton has done it. Indian experts are of the opinion that it is not going to bring any change.

India has begun to protect itself and to improve its growth without caring about the United States. Like China and Japan, it is ready now to speak with dignity and honor at international fora. The Kashmir issue, however, is a stumbling block in this regard. The central government believes that if terrorists are dealt with and elections held in Kashmir, normalcy can be restored there through democratic rule. However, although the United States will not create a big headache for India over Kashmir, it will not fail to use it as leverage to coerce India to sign the NPT.

Indo-U.S. ties deriorated to such an extent only after President Clinton assumed office. He is not going to yield, whatever peace efforts India makes. As long as he continues in office, there will not be any dearth of problems. It is a matter of two and a half years only. After that a new president will come to power. The American people always have regards for India. They would like to maintain friendship with India. On this score, we believe that the crack in Indo-U.S. ties is of a temporary nature.

'Press Briefing' Notes Activities of U.S. Envoy

BK2503132094 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1109 GMT 25 Mar 94

["Press Briefing" on Robin Raphel Visit]

[Text] Ms. Raphel continued her discussions today with senior officials in the ministries of commerce, external affairs, and finance. She met the commerce secretary and his senior colleagues followed by a meeting with the foreign secretary followed by a call on the minister of state for external affairs, Shri R.L. Bhatia. Later in the evening, she met the finance secretary. The joint secretary (America) [in charge of American affairs] hosted a working lunch for her which views were exchanged on various issues of mutual interest with some other joint secretaries in charge of territorial divisions in the MEA [Ministry of External Affairs]. [sentence as received]

Assistant secretary Raphel called on the minister of state, Shri R.L. Bhatia, following her discussions with the foreign secretary. The MOS (RLB) [Minister of State R.L. Bhatia] traced the changes in the global political situation following the end of the Cold War, outlined India's efforts to improve relations with our neighbours and countries in the Gulf, and CIS. Development of still friendlier bilateral relations with the U.S. was a major priority in India's foreign policy. As two vibrant democracies, there were bound to be some differences on some issues. He outlined India's consistent position on and preference for a global comprehensive and non-discriminatory approach on non-proliferation and security related issues. Assistant Secretary Raphel reciprocated MOS, Shri Bhatia's sentiments to improve Indo-US relations and to work towards reaching the understandings on issues the two countries had differing positions and perceptions.

The discussions with the foreign secretary covered a wide range of bilateral issues. Visits from USA by the secretaries (ministers) of commerce and energy were mentioned in this connection. Ms. Raphel expressed the hope that the prime minister of India would find it convenient to pay a visit to Washington on President Clinton's invitation. Turning to relations with Pakistan, the FS [foreign secretary] reiterated India's willingness to resume a dialogue under the Simla Agreement at foreign secretary's level and hoped Pakistan would eschew the path of internationalisation and support to trans-border terrorism. Ms. Raphel stated that the U.S. welcomed the continuation of the bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan which was resumed in January 1994 and stood willing to encourage this process to facilitate resolution of all outstanding problems between the two countries. Referring to J and K [Jammu and Kashmir], the FS drew the attention to the resolution adopted by the Indian parliament and asserted that Pakistan's efforts to agitate the issue would not succeed in fulfilling its territorial ambitions. The foreign secretary regretted that Pakistan had taken steps such as the proposed closure of their consulate in Bombay and the embargo on Indian citizens crossing the land border at Wagah. Indo-U.S. bilateral cooperation on issues like narcotics control, education and culture and science and technology were noted with satisfaction as also the greatly increased levels of trade, investment and economic ties. The foreign secretary reciprocated Ms. Raphel's statement on behalf of the

U.S. administration that the United States favours the strengthening of ties with India, building on the positive features of the present relationship and bridging areas where lack of understanding exists through regular dialogue. On non-proliferation, Ms. Raphel raised the possibility of discussing this issue in a multilateral forum. Referring to a U.S. proposal to discuss such issues within a small group of countries, the FS expressed certain reservations regarding this concept, underlining India's policies laid out in the 1988 action plan presented to the United Nations.

Turning to the possibility of amendment of the Pressler legislation or a one time waiver thereof, the FS expressed strong reservations on this approach, since any accretion of Pakistan's offensive military capabilities would escalate tensions in the region and seriously affect India's security environment. It was agreed that further discussions on these issues would be held during the visit of the deputy secretary of state, Strobe Talbott.

The discussions with the commerce secretary covered wide range of issues. These included developments following the conclusion of the Uruguay Round and specific issues on Indo-U.S. bilateral trade. Both the commerce secretary and Assistant Secretary Raphel expressed satisfaction at the increased momentum in the bilateral trade relationship, the growing interest in the U.S. business community in commercial interaction with India and expressed optimism about the potential in further growth in the bilateral trade.

Specific issues like difficulties being experienced by Indian software engineers in respect of HIB [expansion unknown] visa, apprehensions about the revival of Super 301 and other pressing issues of interest to U.S. were raised. Assistant Secretary Raphel said that the USG [U.S. Government] would use Super 301 consistent with GATT and the results of the Uruguay Round.

The commerce secretary also outlined India's efforts to work out a preferential trading arrangement under the aegis of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation]. He expressed the hope that Pakistan would join other SAARC members in this endeavour.

Both commerce secretary and the assistant secretary looked forward to further strengthening of India-U.S. trade relations and expressed the hope that the forthcoming visit of U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown would provide an added impetus. New Delhi 24.3.94

U.S. Nuclear Policy in South Asia Viewed

BK3003040494 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 25 Mar 94 p 13

[Article by Aabha Dixit]

[Text] A renewed focus upon non-proliferation in South Asia seems to have sharply moved up in priority on the Clinton Administration agenda. A flurry of visits to and from Washington in the near future are expected to produce a fresh bout of nuclear activism. Ms. Robin Raphel's visit to New Delhi is only a prelude to higher level exchanges between India, Pakistan and the U.S.

While the Clinton Administration is beginning to flex its muscles to get New Delhi and Islamabad into a nuclear nonproliferation embrace, the operational element of this strategy unfortunately continues to rely upon flawed logic. By reviving the planes-for- non-proliferation strategy, Washington hopes to give its overall nuclear nonproliferation goals a significant boost. In the past few weeks, the Administration has been seeking to manoeuvre past strong Congressional opinion by using the supply of stranded F-16 planes to Pakistan, on a one-time exception basis, to induce a capping of Pakistan's clandestine nuclear weapons programme. Such a move, apart from the hydraheaded implications for the subcontinent, is fraught with expected risks of failure.

Through the 1980's, the Reagan Administration's guns for influence policy produced no tangible results on the nuclear front for Washington. Despite soaking up nearly $10 billion in economic- cum-military assistance, Islamabad's bellicosity towards its eastern neighbour remained acute. Neither did the drive towards acquiring a nuclear weapon capability slow down. To the contrary, Islamabad was convinced that the guns for influence policy may have been intended for its nuclear programme but, in effect, it held a virtual veto, because of the anticipation of Washington's policies whose real thrust was to keep open the channels of communication with the Afghan Mojahedin. Having cooperated with the CIA, the military regime in Islamabad was given a virtual free hand to procure critical parts for the bomb from the West. Over all, this policy only produced a feverish arms race in the subcontinent.

With Afghanistan removed from its strategic "concerns", Washington realised that Islamabad and the Generals had pulled wool over its eyes through the entire period of the Afghan resistance. It acted belated in deciding that the Pakistan nuclear establishment had crossed the "red light", which warranted them to stop economic and military aid, halfway through the second phase of the assistance programme. President Bush's inability to provide the waiver certificate in October 1990 automatically brought forth the provisions of the Pressler Amendment.

The decision to seek the repeal of the Pressler Amendment has been a stated objective of the Clinton Administration. But its attempts to re-write the Freedom Assistance Act without a country specific language have not been acceptable to U.S. lawmakers. Without the requisite votes, the Clinton Administration publicly forwarded a draft that retained the language of the Pressler Amendment. But privately it has been pursuing an innovative track in diplomacy. The Grand Strategy that has been crafted by the South Asia Department in Foggy

Bottom is to maximize the leverage that Washington has with Islamabad, New Delhi and Congress over the Pressler Amendment.

It is no secret that the supply of the stranded 71 F-16's has become the focal point of the dispute between Islamabad and Washington. The F-16's, apart from their operational versatility, have come to symbolise the tenuous nature of their bilateral relations. In another context, the F-16 represents the jagged edge of a bitter and costly arms race between India and Pakistan. Within Pakistan, the supply of the aircraft has been projected in popular perception as the test case of America's "loyalty" to Islamabad's outstretched hand of friendship and assistance. With the stakes getting higher on the issue of the delivery of the F-16's, Washington's mandarins including Ms. Raphel have conceived of a strategy that seeks to develop sufficient leverage over Islamabad by sending signals that it is prepared to work for the release of the F-16 for a price. This bounty, it is generally assumed, is to seek to cap the nuclear weapon programme.

There are two broad interpretations of the proposed moves on the South Asian chess board. One view looks upon the F-16 nuclear capping swap in purely bilateral terms, with New Delhi's ability to steer clear of any linkages on New Delhi's nuclear front. The resumed supply of F-16's, this view contends, will spark a fresh round of purchases. Without a countervailing external power capable of giving aircraft that match the large dose of F-16's that Islamabad will receive, New Delhi may be forced to look at other alternatives to restore the balance. The second view looks at the proposed move in alarmist tones. They perceive this decision by the Clinton Administration to represent a "tilt" towards Islamabad, bringing back earlier fears that Washington's Pakistan policy is being worked without taking into account New Delhi's sensitivity.

There is, however, a need to look at the Administration's attempt as part of a larger and more coordinated strategy than is generally assumed. In both reports submitted to Congress for FY 1992-93, the Administration has consistently singled out nuclear non-proliferation as its highest priority item in South Asia. The reports have also underlined the manner in which the U.S. would want to proceed in achieving this goal. Washington would first like to "cap" the programmes of the two countries then "freeze" them followed by their "roll back". It is obvious that they can achieve this only through simultaneous pressure upon Islamabad and New Delhi.

Several credible news reports have outlined the course the Clinton Administration would like to take. The one-time exception is like dangling a carrot before the Benazir Bhutto government seeking in return a formal announcement that its nuclear programme has been capped. It is evident that Washington will not merely accept Pakistani declarations, but will seek inspections of nuclear facilities in Pakistan and create inventories, thereby hoping to foreclose future enrichment and its weapons development programme. The leverage to make Islamabad bite the non-proliferation bait will be the resumption of the F-16 fighters. Washington hopes that the resumption of supply of these high visibility items will allow Benazir a face-saving escape route because, technically, Islamabad's weapon option would remain open while its future capability would be severely hampered. In fact, the controversy over nuclear capping that involved all major actors of the troika having corroborated the decision to cap the programme, albeit with totally differing motivations, could be part of a long-term strategy of sensitising Pakistani public opinion to a trend that Islamabad may have accepted as au fait.

A declaratory posture on nuclear capping would allow the Administration to create sufficient grounds within Congress to seek the repeal of the Pressler Amendment, allowing for resumption of arms supplies to Pakistan. But it would be inconceivable for Islamabad to accept such terms on a unilateral basis. This is where the second element of Washington's nuclear nonproliferation strategy for South Asia comes into play. The Robin Raphel visit to New Delhi coincides with the visit of General Abdul Waheed Kakar to Washington. The fact that the much postponed visit by a Pakistan Army Chief is on, suggests that the nuclear issue will be discussed with the man generally presumed to be closest to the nuclear button. There is every possibility that Ms. Raphel and Strobe Talbott, the Deputy Secretary of State, scheduled to visit India some 10 days after her, may carry a significant nonproliferation message for India.

New Delhi would no doubt come under severe pressure, if Washington and Islamabad are able to agree upon this tandem approach. While our nuclear disarmament policies have been predicated upon a global approach, we have in the recent past been persuaded to accept the validity of a regional construct, not necessarily confined to South Asia. New Delhi cannot escape the ramifications of the impending Pak-U.S. deal on the F-16's.

Pressure upon New Delhi notwithstanding, Washington's aircraft-for-capping strategy can fall into a similar trap that the Reagan and Bush Administrations had fallen into. Capping will not remove Islamabad's clandestine bombs nor will it give reliable information about how much fissile material Abdul Qadir Khan's men would have stashed away elsewhere. Given Islamabad's persistent attempts to link Kashmir with the fear of a holocaust, Islamabad's declaratory posture needs to be accepted with a pinch of salt. Washington may find that in the process of capping nuclear programmes in South Asia, it has caused a sprint towards overt nuclearisation.

Iran

Foreign Ministry Rejects Armenian Claims on C-130 Crash

LD3103115994 Tehran IRNA in English 1105 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 31, IRNA—A Foreign Ministry spokesman on Thursday rejected claims by Armenian officials that Iran had commented on the reasons behind the March 17 crash of the Iranian aircraft in Karabakh region before a team of experts finished its probe into the issue.

The spokesman, Mahmud Mohammadi, termed as "untrue" the claim raised by a spokesman of the Armenian president on Wednesday that Iran had made its comments on the crash even before the completion of the investigation by a team of Iranian experts. Based on the report filed by the fact-finding team of experts, the Iranian Foreign Ministry issued its statement last Monday, saying Armenian troops in Karabakh had missiled down the Iranian aircraft killing all 32 passengers and crew members aboard. Mohammadi said that at present some details relevant to minor aspects of the crash were being followed up.

Over the past two days, the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY has contacted Armenian officials in Yerevan and Armenian diplomats in Tehran to inquire about their views on the statement of the Iranian Foreign Ministry concerning the crash but none of them have yet made any formal comment on the issue.

The C-130 which was bound to Tehran from Moscow with families of Iranian diplomats on board exploded in mid air and crashed in Armenian held Karabakh moments after it contacted the Yerevan control tower at 19:10 hours GMT.

Tehran Warns Armenian Government About C-130 Incident

LD3103111194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0953 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] The first political commentary of today is in connection with the outcome of the investigation into the cause of the crash of an Iranian C-130 plane in Nagorno-Karabakh. With the issuing of a statement by our country's Foreign Ministry, which highlights the direct role of the Armenian Government in shooting down the Iranian transport plane over Karabakh, public opinion has become more sensitive about the incident.

The cause of the incident, which resulted in the death of several Iranian diplomats and their families, was scrutinized by a special investigative team, comprising Iranian Foreign Ministry and Air Force experts. Finally, in light of bona fide proof and undeniable evidence, Armenia's responsibility in the incident was ascertained.

For some time now the Government of Armenia has fanned the flames of the Karabakh dispute and, by trampling on the independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan, has violated that country's sovereignty. Despite ostensible support for Iran's peace-seeking and mediation moves, it has, in practice, rendered all efforts at mediation fruitless. Therefore, the shooting down of the Iranian transport plane would naturally result in Iran's doubting Armenia's goodwill and intentions.

Although the Government of Armenia has so far not clearly admitted its responsibility for the shooting down of the Iranian C-130 plane, the existing proof and evidence have shed sufficient light on the matter. Therefore, it is necessary for the Armenian Government to take steps, as soon as possible, to bring to trial and punish the perpetrators of this crime. Also, the Islamic Republic of Iran reserves the right to follow up the crime and claim damages for the families of the victims.

Undoubtedly Armenia should be aware of the importance of its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and not be influenced by foreign suggestions and mar and destabilize its relations with Iran any further. That would be of no benefit to that country. Rebuilding those ties, which have been maintained under the most difficult conditions, would necessitate a great deal of effort on Armenia's part.

Plans Urged To Prevent Reoccurrence of Incident

LD3003200594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] It has been precisely clarified, following the return of the special expert team of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Karabakh, that the C-130 plane belonging to the Iranian Air Force has crashed in Karabakh region due to a missile fired by the Armenian forces stationed there.

Based on the investigations conducted by the Iranian team, the plane had deviated course before the crash due to a technical problem. The area's control tower and navigation facilities did not respond to the pilot's request for help and assistance either.

It must be noted that the Iranian expert team dispatched to the scene of the C-130 crash did not manage to find the plane's black box, which could answer so many puzzles.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry—in the wake of the announcement of the final results of the experts about the March 28th incident—condemning the downing of the C-130 plane, mentioned the bitter tragedy as a clear indication of the adverse consequences and the rest of the situation in the region [sentence as heard].

The Iranian plane was carrying 32 people—including 13 crew, 19 passengers, and 17 women and children belonging to diplomats' relations as well as two Iranian students residing in Moscow—who were returning home on March 18 to spend the New Year holidays. In the incident even the lives of the innocent people and other countries' nationals were seriously exposed to danger.

Assuredly, the responsibility for these acts lies with the people who are trying to step up the disputes. It is necessary that proper measures be taken to prevent occurrence of such pitiable incidents.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, since the outbreak of the Karabakh conflict, laying emphasis on the importance of peace and security in the region, has called on the belligerent sides to search for a peaceful way. To this end, the impartial mediation by Tehran and the periodical visits of the Iranian officials to Baku and Yerevan indicate honesty in the part of Iran to grant help peacefully solve the Karabakh crisis [sentence as heard].

In (?a lot) of the experts' opinions, the Islamic Republic of Iran reserves the right of legal pursuit of the plane crash and fulfilment of the rights of the incident victims and compensation for the survivors of the horrible incident. Undoubtedly those behind the incident should be answerable to such inappropriate acts.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry on Monday March 28th released a statement requesting the Armenian Government to identify and punish those behind the incident. It is natural that such a measure by the Armenian Government can avert the recurrence of such incidents, which in no way (?help to) resolve the current disputes and improve the atmosphere prevalent in the regional relations.

Iran Ready To Send 120,000 Pilgrims to Mecca

LD2903105694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Excerpts] The despatch of Iranian pilgrims to the House of God will start on 11 Ordibehesht [1 May] this year.

At a news conference this morning, Mr Reza'i, deputy minister of culture and islamic guidance and head of the Haj and Pilgrimage Organization, said: Under an agreement signed in 1370 [1991-2] between the Iranian and Saudi foreign ministers, the despatch of pilgrims was in accordance with a pre-determined number in recent years. This year, too, the Islamic Republic of Iran is fully prepared to despatch more than 120,000 pilgrims to the Holy House. [passage omitted]

The head of the Haj Organization said the amount of foreign currency allocated to each pilgrim is 850 Saudi rials. [passage omitted]

He added: The despatch of pilgrims for Minor Haj will commence on the first of Rabi' al-Awwal, 19 Mordad [10 August], at 3,000 persons a week. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Velayati Arrives in Guinea Via Chad

LD2903124494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati arrived in Conakry, the capital of Guinea, today, on the first leg of his tour of a number of African countries. According to a Central News Unit correspondent's report from Conakry airport, Mr. Velayati said his trip was aimed at expanding ties between the two countries in various fields. Before arriving in Guinea Mr. Velayati made a short stopover at N'djamena, the capital of Chad, during which he met and conferred with Chad's foreign minister.

Meets Guinean President, Foreign Minister

NC3003072494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] During his visit to various African countries, Foreign Minister Velayati met Guinean President Conte last night and conveyed President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's verbal message to him. Our colleague in Africa reports:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] During this meeting, the Guinean president expressed the hope that Iranian-Guinean relations will expand through joint bilateral efforts. Conte added: The Guinean Government and nation attach great significance to cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran and announce their readiness to expand relations.

During his stay in Guinea, our foreign minister also met his Guinean counterpart and referred to the two major problems in the world of Islam—Palestine and Bosnia-Herzegovina—and stated that the only solution to these problems is through the unity of Islam. Velayati added: Iran and Guinea can adopt joint stances during the upcoming meetings of the Nonaligned Movement and of the Islamic Conference Organization to overcome Islam's problems. Velayati described Guinea as one of the major centers of Islam in Africa and stressed: Based on Islam, the Islamic Republic of Iran considers support for Muslims as one of its major duties.

Ibrahima Sylla, Guinea's minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, lauded the significant role that the Islamic Republic of Iran plays in the region and in the world of Islam and called for Iran's assistance to Guinea in the fields of fishing, railways, health, dam construction, energy, and technology. The Guinean minister said he was happy about the opening of Iranian trade fairs, which help toward meeting the needs of his country's people. [end recording]

Velayati's African Tour Assessed as 'Beneficial'

LD2903203694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Unidentified commentary]

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, leading a key political delegation, yesterday left on an official tour of six African states. During his African tour, Dr. Velayati will visit Guinea-Conakry, Burkina Faso, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Uganda, and Kenya.

At present, the Islamic Republic of Iran has diplomatic relations with more than 20 African states, enjoying cordial and friendly ties with nearly most of the African countries. Subsequent to such ties, political and cultural teams have been exchanging visits, embarking on development of economic relations.

It must be recalled that during the previous regime, on account of the posturings of the then ruling cliques, Iran did not enjoy good relations with most of the African states. As a result, the former regime had set up political and economic relations at a limited level with only a few African countries and in particular with the racist regime of South Africa. In the wake of the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, the Islamic republic's foreign policy gave priority to establishing relations with the Third World states, especially with the African countries. In this same connection, Iran has endeavored to increase its economic and cultural relations with them.

Undoubtedly, continuation of this trend and regular meetings between the officials of Iran and these states confirm the reality that, due to common bonds existing between Iran and these countries in various political and commercial spheres, there is available considerable potential for enhancing and bolstering mutual ties. For instance, the six African states referred to earlier possess huge mineral reserves, such as gold, diamonds, silver, and iron ore, and also farm products like coffee, cocoa, tea, rice, sugar cane, and cotton. Therefore, they can forge good cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran in various economic fields. Reciprocally, there are useful experiences enjoyed by Iran in exploiting industrial and mineral raw material, and also in education, technical, and vocational training. These are some cases which provide suitable ground for expansion of cooperation and also cementing of ties by these states with Iran.

In view of these points, political observers attach significance to Dr. Velayati's tour of these six countries. They assess the tour as beneficial to bilateral interests and also to further bolstering of political, economic, and cultural relations, besides a sustained cooperation with international circles.

Commentary on 'New Look' Toward Africa

NC3103082394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in Burkina Faso yesterday as part of his trip to six African countries and held talks with the local officials. Even though the visit to Burkina Faso by Velayati and the high-ranking political delegation accompanying him is the second phase of our foreign minister's tour that began on Tuesday, the delegation actually stopped in two countries before arriving in Burkina Faso. In addition to meeting and talking with officials of Guinea, the delegation stopped briefly at the airport in the Chadian capital, Ndjamena, on its way to Burkina Faso and talked with the Chadian foreign minister.

During the meeting between the Iranian and Chadian foreign ministers, Chad requested that the Islamic Republic of Iran assist in exploiting its oil resources as part of cooperation among countries of the South. This request is vitally important to Chad, especially after the discovery of an important oilfield in southern Chad.

In Guinea the Iranian delegation held detailed talks on economic, political, and cultural cooperation between Tehran and Conakry, including discussions on cooperation in the exploitation of bauxite mines, energy, the construction of hydro-electrical dams, and the construction of railways.

In Burkina Faso our foreign minister and his delegation met with the prime minister and discussed political and economic relations between the two countries. During this meeting, the initial basis for the expansion and consolidation of economic and commercial cooperation was laid, and with the formation of a joint commission in this field, a new era began in the economic cooperation between Tehran and Ouagadougou. To acquaint the government and nation of Burkina Faso with our country's high economic potential, it was decided that a trade exhibition including products and industries of Islamic Iran be set up in Ouagadougou.

Iran's diplomatic activities in Africa are of interest to political experts and analysts for various reasons. The first is that this diplomatic initiative by the Islamic Republic of Iran strengthens the position of Muslims in Africa, especially in Black Africa. The second is that this activity is significant to the expansion of South-South relations vis-a-vis the array of forces by the North against the South. The third is that meeting mutual needs in the economic, cultural, and political fields and helping deprived countries, especially with experts and know-how from the rich scientific and industrial experiences that our country has among the Third World, is an important objective in our country's diplomatic policy.

At any rate, Tehran's new look toward Africa has attracted the attention of many political experts.

Tehran Examines Saudi Reduction of Hajj Quota

LD3003121794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1004 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Station commentary: "Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the Hajj"]

[Text] The head of our country's Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization has asked Saudi Arabia to honor the Saudi-Iranian agreement on the number of Iranian pilgrims and the manner of performing the hajj ritual. Under the agreement Saudi Arabia consented to the dispatch of

110,000 Iranian pilgrims to that country and also to the performing of the Disavowal of Infidels ritual during the hajj period. Three years after the sending of Iranian pilgrims was halted, following the tragedy of the massacre at the holy shrine in 1369 [1990], the foreign ministers of Iran and Saudi Arabia signed an agreement which has been implemented over the past three years. [sentence as heard]

Now, within the framework of its commitments in its relations with Iran, Saudi Arabia is expected to provide the necessary facilities for the reception of Iranian pilgrims eager to visit the holy House of God. Since adherence to the Koranic and legal principle of honoring commitments is considered as a basis for international relations, its violation is considered a violation of international regulations and norms and would undoubtedly reduce Saudi Arabia's international credit.

Saudi Arabia's adherence to its commitments concerning its bilateral and multilateral relations notwithstanding, the Saudi rulers should be aware of their present position and of their sensitive responsibility for managing the two holy shrines. They should know that their main duty, if they value that management, is to help eligible Muslims to perform their religious duty of hajj.

Saudi Arabia's sudden, unconventional, and unethical decision to reduce the number of Iranian pilgrims by 50 percent, in addition to delaying hundreds of thousands of eager Iranian pilgrims in the performance of their hajj duty, would completely prevent about 177,000 septuagenarian Iranian pilgrims [accumulated backlog of elderly still waiting to undertake pilgrimage] from performing this divine duty. Undoubtedly, this is contrary to the Saudi rulers' religious and moral commitment to assist Muslims in the performance of their religious duty. Although the Saudi Government, by insisting on its criterion—that is, accepting one pilgrim per thousand of the population of each country—is trying to reduce Iran's quota, it is perfectly obvious that many countries are sending a much smaller number than their quota. Therefore, sending 110,000 or more Iranian pilgrims, as in previous years, would not have a fundamental effect on the management of the pilgrims' affairs. Arabistan [Saudi Arabia] is insisting on reducing the quota of pilgrims agreed with Iran, while every year several countries send more than their set quota to the House of God. In this connection one can mention Egypt, which has a smaller population than Iran but exceeds the quota set by Arabistan by tens of thousands of pilgrims.

Such contradictory assertions and behavior by the Saudi rulers give rise to the thought that the Saudi Government has adopted a political attitude in relation to the hajj. This of course is not in harmony with that country's obligation to manage the affairs of the two holy shrines. Adopting a politically laden attitude toward people's religious obligations is a sensitive issue which can, furthermore, induce sensitivity. This attitude, moreover, cannot be justified or interpreted coherently within the framework of the two countries' friendly relations, which Iran has always tried to maintain.

It is appropriate that while there is still time the Saudi rulers should adopt a more careful stance toward the uncompromising behavior of some of their diplomats in connection with the issue of the hajj, and in particular toward the issue of pilgrimage by hundreds of thousands of Iranians, so that, as it did a few years ago, this political and Islamic ritual can take place in an appropriate and fitting fashion.

IRNA Criticizes Saudi Actions in OPEC

LD2903183394 Tehran IRNA in English 1711 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March, 29, IRNA—The adoption by the government of Saudi Arabia of a position against the interests and profits of other member countries of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has astounded petroleum exporters.

While the belief of oil experts and also the position of the other 11 OPEC members and the psychological atmosphere of the market was favourable for reduction of the production ceiling by 1 to 1.4 million barrels per day, Riyadh disagreed with any reduction in the production of its oil.

On the basis of these views such a reduction by member states could cause the price of oil to increase by dlrs 3.00 to 4.00 per barrel.

All witnesses and reasons indicate that the opposition of Saudi Arabia with other OPEC members and especially Islamic Iran as one of the countries that offered that proposal in the recent OPEC meeting was merely political and was adopted without taking into account the interests of other members.

Oil and economic experts emphasize on this point that the responsible officials in Saudi Arabia should not relate its dispute with Iran over the number of Mecca pilgrims to oil issues.

The recent decision-making by the Saudi Government in the area of oil issues has always created the suspicion that this country prefers Western interest to the interests of Muslim countries and other OPEC member states.

Although the OPEC secretariat had warned that if the production ceiling was not reduced within the next two months the oil price would fall several dollars from the present level. Nevertheless Saudi Arabia remained stubborn on its strange position without considering the realities.

Because Saudi Arabia is considered as the biggest oil producing country of the world it has suffered more loss than other countries due to the falling trend of the price of oil during this past year. The income of this country has been reduced at dlrs 2.5 billion for each dollar in the fall of oil price.

Iran's policies has indicated the reality that the Islamic republic has always considered the issue of understanding within OPEC, the stability of oil market and the interests of other members and as a result the interests of the Muslim world.

It should also be noted that for attaining these goals the Islamic republic has at time even overlooked its own interests.

Saudi Arabia, by supplying eight million bpd [barrels per day] of oil to the oil market has played an effective role in reducing the price of oil and the perpetuation of this unprincipled policy has always guaranteed the protection of the interests of the West and the wealthy consumers of oil.

'Abdallah Bin-Hamad al-Attiyah [name as received], energy minister of Qatar voiced his dissatisfaction in this regard in an interview with the state news agency of Qatar.

He emphasized the importance of the reduction in oil production of member countries with the view to improve the situation of the market.

According to OPEC secretary general of OPEC, Sobroto, Nigeria and Indonesia, too, offered separate proposals for reducing OPEC production at the level of 1 to 1.4 million bpd which also includes the reduction of the quota of Saudi Arabia.

The oil minister of Oman, too, wrote a letter to OPEC on behalf of eight non-OPEC countries saying these countries are ready to reduce the sum of their output by 250,000 bpd.

In the opinion of a political expert in the present situation that many of the oil producing countries which, under the influence of diferent factors including reduced oil prices, face economic stagnation, any decision which should create hindrances in the way of the determination of a just and reasonable oil price will be in fact a measure against the interests of developing nations and developing countries.

The same expert says Saudi Arabia, by creating a chaos in the adoption of a common decision in OPEC for reducing the volume of oil production has caused considerable loss to the oil producing countries and with respect to the warming temperature there is now the likelihood that the crisis caused by the reduction of oil prices will stretch its heavy shadow on the economy of many oil producing countries including Saudi Arabia.

He also believed that the opposition of the government of Saudi Arabia with the increase in oil prices is in fact some sort of antagonism and opposition with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

At any rate eonomic experts have a consensus of opinion in one issue which is that the position of Saudi Arabia did not aim at understanding, unity and solidarity of OPEC members and this decision-making has deeply astounded and at the same time angered producing countries.

It is said that in Geneva the officials of the Saudi Government in their direct talks with the Iranian sides admitted that their opposition to the increase in the oil price is a reply to the position of Iran in relation to the issue of hajj and reaction to the violation of Saudi Arabia of its previous commitments.

Such reports, in case they are true, more than anything else are indicative of the presence of political weakness, and there is the expectation that the officials of Saudi Arabia will look at issues with more realism and refuse to take a decision which inflicts the biggest loss to this country.

OPEC Decision on Production Ceiling, Saudi Stance Viewed

NC3103072994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] During the recent session, OPEC petroleum ministers renewed the existing agreement among members on an oil production of 24.52 million barrels a day for another nine months. This decision was made at a time when not only the majority of OPEC members but the eight non-OPEC members had announced their willingness to reduce oil production. However, Saudi Arabia's disagreement on dropping production compelled OPEC to renew the agreement that was adopted six months ago on a daily production of 24.52 million barrels a day until the end of the current Christian calendar year.

Commenting on the renewal of OPEC's existing production ceiling, several petroleum ministers—the Qatari petroleum minister who also heads OPEC, the Libyan petroleum minister who is also a member of the three-man committee that studies possible violations by members, and the petroleum minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran—made separate statements criticizing Saudi Arabia. They also said that the decision was made to renew the production ceiling to avoid indecision.

Following Saudi Arabia's refusal to reduce its production, the OPEC secretary general and some members said that the renewal of the production ceiling was the only decision that members could practically and collectively agree on.

Our correspondent Hafezi has prepared the following report on the impact of this decision on oil prices and on our country's economy.

[Begin Hafezi recording] Following OPEC's recent decision, incoming reports from oil markets show that the continuation of oil production at the former production ceiling during a season when OPEC would have normally reduced production has led to an estimated $1 drop in oil prices in comparison with the period before the OPEC session. Meanwhile, a number of oil market analysts have noted that since the oil market foresaw a renewal of the agreement even before the current session, prices have sufficiently dropped and the official announcement will not reduce oil prices more than one more dollar during the next six months.

Meanwhile, OPEC members have agreed to maintain the former official production level even during the three months of autumn when oil demands increase. In this case, oil prices can be expected to strengthen during the three months of autumn.

As for the recent OPEC decision's impact on the Islamic Republic of Iran, domestic observers point out that since oil incomes in the 1373 budget law [year beginning 21 March 1994] were less than the estimates in the budget bill and are based on $13 per barrel, lesser foreign exchange expenditures have been foreseen for projects in that year. These observers have pointed out that determining two separate methods for foreign exchange expenditures, which are in ratio with oil prices, can help the government confront the drop in foreign exchange income. The observers add that it is ultimately an increase in domestic production and more use of domestic products that can help drop foreign exchange needs. [end recording]

Commentary Examines Expanding Ties With Kuwait

LD2903182194 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1657 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] In his meeting yesterday with Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, our country's Roads and Transport Minister Akbar Torkan submitted to him a message from Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Although the content of the president's message has not been publicized, according to informed sources, the message was chiefly in connection with friendly ties and cooperation between Iran and Kuwait.

Our country's roads and transport minister, who started his three-day visit by meeting the amir of Kuwait, has also met the Kuwaiti prime minister and has conferred with him about the expansion of bilateral cooperation in economic and political spheres.

In this visit, Mr. Torkan will sign a maritime agreement between the two countries. The first shipping line between the two countries has been operating actively since February last year. The opening of an active shipping line between the two countries is in reality a new chapter in the process of consolidating economic and political bonds between the two Muslim and fraternal nations of Iran and Kuwait. In addition, the distinguished and unique geopolitical situation of Iran has made our country a major communications link between Muslim countries, in particular as Iran links Arab countries—especially Persian Gulf littoral states—to the newly independent Muslim countries of Central Asia.

The expansion of cordial and fraternal ties between Iran and Kuwait is taking place at a time when there are vigorous attempts by a number of Western countries and their allies in the region to mar Iran's relations with its southern neighbors. However, the present state of relations shows that despite the wish of the enemies and their extensive political and propaganda endeavours aimed at creating distance between Iran and its neighbors, the present realities in the region prove that there exist many profound bonds, as well as common interests and objectives, the attainment of which is dependent upon the expansion of cordial relations between historical neighbors in the region.